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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Rota Park

The Obama administration gave its support to a bill authorizing study of Rota as a site for a National Park.

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New Protests

Protesters dare the military to stop them as they head to rally in a Bangkok suburb.

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An already ailing Bret Michaels has been diagnosed with another medical malady.

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Sam McPhetres returning to NMC

» **Two former department chairs re-apply**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Constitutionalist and longtime educator Sam McPhetres—whose con-

tract was not renewed by the Northern Marianas College in December—will be back at the community college starting Monday.



McPhetres

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Judiciary: Fitial's budget plan for us unacceptable

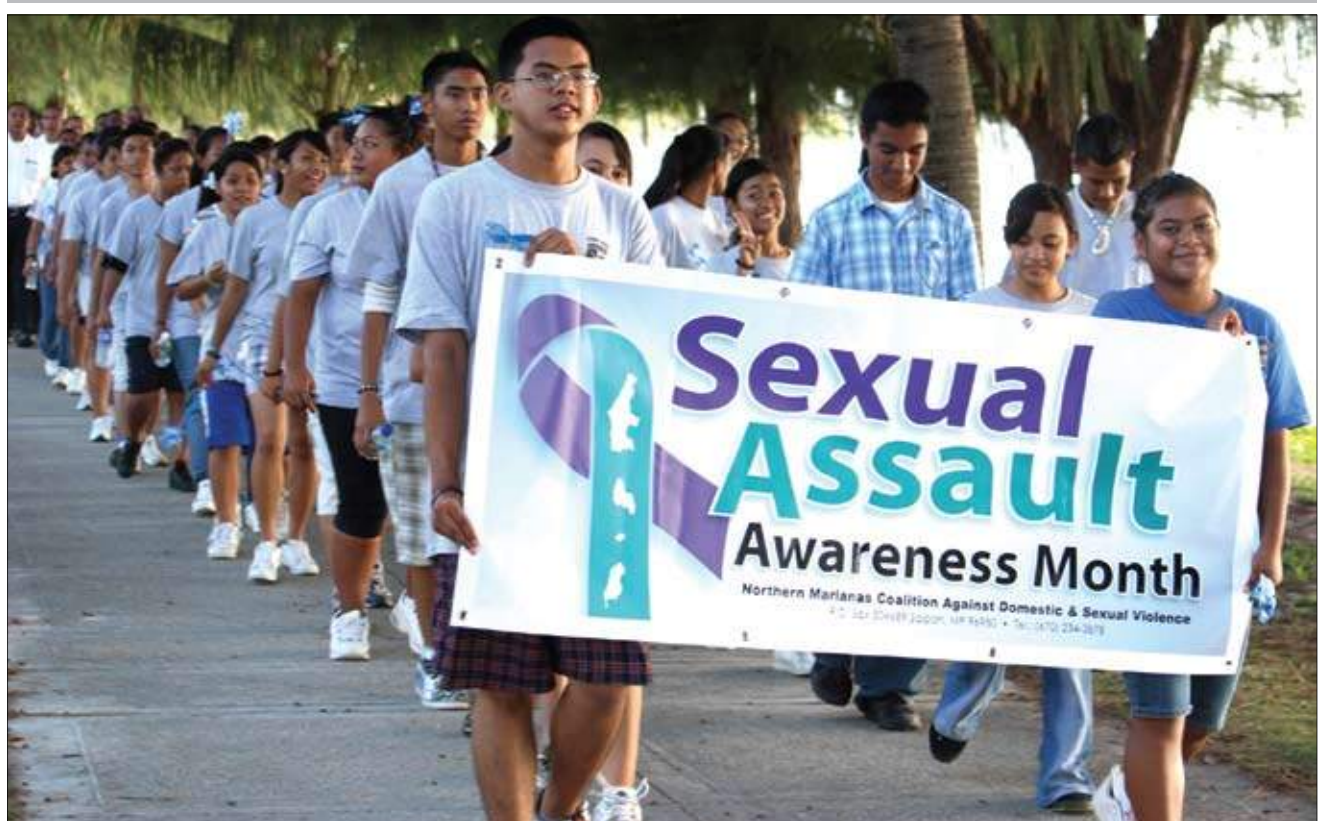
» **Judiciary asks for \$5.56M, Fitial admin wants \$2.97M**

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Ranking officials of the CNMI Judiciary told a House committee yesterday that the Fiscal Year 2011 budget proposal submitted by the Executive Branch for the Judicial Branch is "not practical" and "unacceptable."

CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel Demapan and CNMI Superior

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

TAKE A STAND

Children and adults take part in a march against domestic and sexual violence from Minachom Atdao in Susupe to near the former Hakubotan Building on Beach Road and back yesterday afternoon, as part of the Sexual Assault Awareness Month activities in April. Dubbed the "Walk Toward a Violence-Free Marianas," the event was sponsored by the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence, in partnership with the Division of Youth Services, the Family Violence Task Force, Ayuda Network, and the Diabetes Coalition.

Pension obligation bond, eventual phase out in Fund's five-point plan

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration and the NMI Retirement Fund jointly presented to lawmakers yesterday a five-point plan to save the pension

agency and protect retirees. These include a line-item appropriation, a pension obligation bond, other legislative amendments, a hard freeze, and phase out of the Retirement Fund.

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It's official: Babauta is GOP's bet for delegate



Officials of the NMI Republican Party join hands with their official candidate for the upcoming delegate election, Juan Nekai Babauta, fourth from left, after the party's endorsement last night at Garapan Central Park.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The general membership of the local Republican Party officially endorsed last night former governor Juan N. Babauta as its standard-bearer in the upcoming election for non-voting delegate to the

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Local

Firefighter arrested for alleged contempt of court

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Police arrested on Tuesday a firefighter who, despite a court order requiring him to stay away from his former girlfriend, allegedly went inside her apartment to take the boots and belt he needed for his work.

Firefighter I Jelani Sablan Tilipao, 28, was arrested for contempt of court, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

The court earlier imposed a \$10,000 cash bail for Tilipao's temporary liberty but Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman reduced this to \$300 cash yesterday, at the request of chief public defender Adam Hardwicke, Tilipao's counsel.

The government, represented by assistant attorney general Michael Evangelista, did not oppose it.

Hardwicke said that Tilipao has been doing well with the restraining order for quite some time now and that the boots and belt were very important for his job.

Wiseman pointed out, however, the allegations of outrageous conduct by Tilipao and informed the defendant of the serious consequences of violating a court order.

Hardwicke said Tilipao is now fully aware of the jail consequences for violating a court order.

Detective Peter A. Aldan stated in his report that, accord-

ing to the victim, she was at a neighbor's house on Monday at 9am when she saw Tilipao arrive aboard a Department of Public Safety EMS ambulance that parked in front of her apartment in San Antonio.

The victim said she walked to her apartment and found Tilipao inside the apartment talking to their 6-year-old son.

Tilipao asked the victim to open the children's bedroom door so he could take his working boots and belt.

The victim stated she will, but only if he gives her the children's hospital blue card because her 1-year-old son was sick. The victim claimed that she has been asking for that blue card since last year, but Tilipao refused to

hand it over.

Tilipao allegedly threatened to break the door if the victim refuses to open it. When she refused, Tilipao kicked the door open, causing their two children to start crying.

The victim shouted at Tilipao to get out. He grabbed his boots and belt, walked out of the house, and left in the ambulance for work.

"Jelani [Tilipao] was on duty that morning of the incident and failed to render assistance to his own child who was sick nor did he request to assist and ask [the victim] if they want to be transported to CHC for the child to be checked in regards to the child's medical attention and needs," Detective Aldan said.

Aldan said the court earlier gave an order of protection to the victim for one year and that the restraining order against Tilipao will expire in July 2010.

"One of several conditions that Jelani has to abide by is to stay away from Veronica's place of residence and not disturb her and the two children," Aldan said.

Camacho: Working with island leaders key to clear voice in DC

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Former House Floor Leader Joseph James Norita Camacho, who is running for the CNMI delegate post this Nov. 2, underscored the importance of working with the local leadership in order to have a clear voice in Washington D.C.

"We need a delegate that will work with the local CNMI leaders because only together can we do the work that needs to be done," said Camacho at a fundraiser held at Naked Fish Tuesday night.

Camacho, a lawyer, will run for the CNMI delegate seat in Congress under the Covenant Party.

The fundraiser, which was also Camacho's 41st birthday celebration, was attended by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Jose Lifofoi, Cabinet members, lawmakers, some lawyers, and community leaders.

Camacho said the CNMI needs to have a unified position that allows the voice of the people to be heard. "We were promised economic prosperity by the United States...we will hold them to that promise," he said.

He said there is a need to defend the business-friendly tax system of the CNMI because

it will encourage businesses to invest here.

"We will remove restrictions to allow businesses to grow and invest...because it will create jobs for our people," Camacho said.

He vowed to leverage the authority of the U.S. Congress to bring in more airlines and improve the CNMI's tourism industry.

Camacho said he will also seek to remove the matching requirement for federal grant dollars. Doing this, he said, will allow federal funds to be used as soon as possible.

He said federal taxes on imports and exports should either be minimized or abolished. "Our people are already paying too much for their basic needs," Camacho said.

Camacho said he will also seek compensations for lands taken or made unusable by the federal government. "Land is limited resource and our people will not be made homeless," he said.

Camacho also briefly touched on the submerged lands issue, affordable and reliable health care, and education.

"I need your support and vote so that we can bring all these and more for the benefit of all the people of our beloved Commonwealth," he added, drawing loud applause from his guests and supporters.

BOE approves reallocation of two members' budgets

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education has approved reallocating the budget for two non-voting members, whose slots have yet to be filled by the administration to date.

The board has eight members: five voting and three honorary representatives. Non-voting members include the public school teachers' representative, private schools' representative, and the students' honorary member.

Since January 2008, the seat for the public school teachers' representative has been vacant after the expiration of Ambrose Bennett's term, while Scott Norman recently vacated the slot for private schools.

For Fiscal Year 2010, PSS allocated \$50,000 for the professional development of board members. The five voting members were appropriated \$8,167 each for this purpose, while \$3,333 each was ear-

marked for the private school representative and student representative. The public school teachers' representative was budgeted at \$2,500.

The board voted to transfer the professional development funds of both the teachers' representatives for private and public schools—totaling to \$5,833—to board members Lucy Blanco-Maratita and Tanya King.

Board member Herman T. Guerrero, during the last board meeting, said this will help defray the cost of travel for the two members from Tinian and Rota. Board members are required to attend committee and board meetings, as well as special and important events of the board and PSS.

The board intends to continue reallocating the funds until the two positions are filled.

Both King and Maratita expressed gratitude for the concern showed by their peers.

The board has had no teachers' representative for public schools for two years now.

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By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor has appointed Labor administrative hearing officer Barry Hirshbein as its federal relations manager, Labor's special counsel Deanne Siemer disclosed yesterday.

Siemer told *Saipan Tribune* in an e-mail that Labor Deputy

Hirshbein appointed as federal relations manager

Secretary Cinta Kaipat tapped Hirshbein for the position to coordinate federal matters in the area of labor.

Siemer said the establishment of prevailing wages in the CNMI for purposes of federal programs was among the questions asked during her

VTC presentation with members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the Northern Marianas College on Tuesday. Siemer is currently in Washington D.C.

She said the local Labor office is now working on the prevailing wage issue with the U.S.

Labor Department.

"This requires certain training programs in the Commonwealth," she said.

As part of the proposed CNMI Labor reorganization, two new key positions will be created: a manager for federal relations and a manager for

employer relations.

On the question of how the workforce participation benchmark would be set, Siemer described the CNMI Labor's initiative to work with the Bureau of Labor Statistics in the U.S. Labor Department to develop for the Commonwealth the same kind of employment and unemployment statistics that are

available to states, counties, cities, and other areas of more than 65,000 people in the U.S.

"The Commonwealth has not had these services because of the high cost of providing them directly from the U.S. The CNMI Labor Department is working toward a cooperative arrangement under which the local people in the CNMI would be used to collect the data under the methods and quality controls used in the U.S.," Siemer said.

3-day Chamorro Language Conference kicks off on Rota

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Rota Mayor Melchor A. Mendiola delivered the welcoming remarks that kicked off the Kumpfrensian Lingguahin Chamorro yesterday at Round House in Songsong, Rota.

The conference, which is a special component of the English Chamorro Dictionary Revision Project, aims to "foster awareness, learn, share and exchange knowledge, ideas, and expertise related to the situation of the Chamorro language and culture in education, the economy, and social developments within and outside of the Marianas."

Work hour cuts take effect at DPW

The Department of Public Works reassures the community of continued delivery of services and the completion of projects despite a significant cut in their budget.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, DPW Secretary Martin Sablan said that their department will try to maximize their resources in order to respond to the needs of the public.

"If we are given that amount of money to operate this department, we're going to try to do our best to work within that [amount]," Sablan emphasized.

The budget cut has resulted to a 10-hour work reduction for about 20 contract workers or excepted service workers who have signed contracts with the

The theme of the conference is "Tungu', Sienti, yan Gu'aiya I Finu," which translates as "Think, Know, and Love Chamorro."

Glenn H. Manglona, chairman of the Kumpfrensia Lingguahin Chamorro, told *Saipan Tribune* that the conference is a success, with more than a hundred participants and four vendor booths selling native foods taking part in the opening of the three-day event.

Manglona said that the first day of the conference was highlighted by various lectures and presentations from different

department. These include inspectors, engineers, directors, division heads, and the department secretary.

Sablan confirmed that they already signed documents to effect the work hour cuts.

At present, the department has a number of ongoing road improvement projects in the CNMI.

On Saipan, Phase 2A of the Cross-island Road Project has already started and DPW plans to announce plans for Phase 3 soon.

The Route 202 road project on Tinian and the Route 101 road and drainage improvement on Rota have already been completed and will have the close-out documents soon. (*Saipan Tribune*)

speakers and organizations.

The keynote speakers were Dr. Sandra Chung who discussed diglossia and bilingualism; former Rota mayor Joseph S. Inos who expanded on the conference's theme; and Carmen Taimanao, who shared her passion for teaching and learning the language.

Conference presenters included the *man'amko* from the Office of Aging on Rota, Rota Elementary and Junior High School students, and Marianas High School Chamorro Club.


Students who were not able to fly to Rota for the conference were still able to participate through video teleconferencing made possible by the collaboration of IT&E, the Northern Marianas College IT Department, and the Public School System's IT Erate Program.

According to John Babauta, project director for Administration for the Native Americans Project, 10 public elementary and high schools watched the conference through the video

teleconference.

Babauta said that they've done video teleconferencing from the NMC campus on Saipan to Rota and Tinian for different summits in the past. This is the first time that they are broadcasting from Rota and streaming it to different schools on Saipan.

Babauta added that they



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2 traditional Yapese outrigger canoes now en route to Guam

Two traditional outrigger canoes set sail from Yap on Monday morning for Guam as part of the continuing celebration of Yap Day. The Yap Day celebrations officially took place last weekend but due to the weather, the canoes were

not able to depart until 10am Monday from Lamortrek in the Federated States of Micronesia.

According to former Yap governor Robert Ruecho, who is an adviser to the Yapese Federation of Guam, it will take

approximately four days for the canoes to travel to Guam, depending on wind and weather conditions. The canoes are

expected to arrive at the Paseo in Hagatna this evening or on Friday, though lack of radio communication makes determining an exact date and time impossible.

Each canoe is each carrying a cell

phone equipped with Guam service so that as soon as the crews can physically see Guam, they will contact the Federation so that a proper welcoming ceremony can be held. **(PR)**

BABAUTA

From Page 1

U.S. Congress. The GOP also elected three new officers as replacements for party officials that recently resigned.

Babauta was the only one who submitted a letter of intent to the party by the April 16 deadline.

In his short message to the crowd at the Garapan Central Park last night, Babauta expressed his appreciation on how the party conducted its selection process and asked for everyone's support in the November contest.

Babauta will run against three other contenders: Joseph N. Camacho of the Covenant Party, Democratic Party's Jesus Borja, and incumbent Gregorio Kilili Sablan.

Babauta emphasized the need for the party to strengthen its membership and bring back the GOP to where it was: strong and with a voice at the federal level.

New officers

By acclamation, Juan Tenorio was elected as the new party president, along with Mike Kiyoshi and Tony Benavente as second vice president and secretary, respectively.

Tenorio takes over the party reins from Dave Attao, who resigned last week due to family medical reasons. It was also disclosed last night that two other officers had quit their posts for personal reasons: second vice president Donald Barcinas and secretary Alisa Pangelinan.

Present at the gathering were key of-

ficials of the party that included senators Pete Reyes and Ralph Torres and representatives Diego Benavente, Ramon Tebuteb, and Joe Guerrero.

Also in attendance were former House speaker Arnold Palacios and independent senator Luis Crisostimo.

'Climate of fear'

Key party personalities also spoke a few words after the official endorsement of Babauta.

Former House speaker Palacios describes the present time as a great challenge for the GOP as it is now dealing with a "climate of fear."

"This going to be a challenge for the party...because we're in a climate of fear!" he said, adding that he understand why some GOP members failed to show up because of "fear."

"We need to re-awaken our members...and re-awaken our philosophy. This is not only about Juan Babauta for the delegate post...this is about the Republican Party!" he told the crowd. "We're very strong...but we understand the climate we have today."

Bo Palacios, the local GOP's representative to the national Republican Party, shared some words from their national allies, saying: "Any less than a majority is a failure for the GOP."

Palacios said that national party members are excited about the upcoming election in the CNMI and have expressed support for the local group.

Others who also gave short remarks at the gathering were Sen. Reyes and Sen. Crisostimo, who expressed his intention to join the GOP in the future.

including Marianas History, American History, American Government, and Current Issues in the Marianas. He also chaired the Department of Social Sciences and Fine Arts from 2004 to 2008.

Haag, Keaton reapply at NMC

Besides McPhetres, two other longtime instructors and former department chairpersons whose contracts were also not renewed by former NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez have reapplied at NMC.

Lee disclosed that both Mark Haag and Glenn Keaton, former chairpersons at the college, have re-applied for the positions.

The Faculty Senate president expressed support for their return to the college.

"I know they both applied to the posts...but I don't know what happened to their applications. And yes, I admit that I am in favor of having them back here at the college," Lee added.

He expressed concern, though, about positions at the college that remain unfilled. These include dean of Academic Programs and Services, department chairpersons for Nursing and School of Education, and a number of faculty instructors. He's hoping that these important posts would be filled before the start of the new semester.

To date, NMC has a total workforce of 182 employees: 76 faculty and 106 staff. Every semester, NMC accommodates nearly a thousand students for its certificate and academic programs.

PENSION

From Page 1

Tony Muña, leader of the Fitial administration's negotiating team, and the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees, asked members of the House and Senate to pass a legislative initiative to be placed in the November 2010 ballot. This would allow the government to borrow up to \$200 million to pay off its debt to the Fund.

Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero's House Legislative Initiative 17-1, which adds a new Section 10 to Article X of the CNMI Constitution to authorize the CNMI to issue a pension obligation bond, has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

Guerrero said the Fund and the administration proposed some amendments to his HLI 17-1, for it to be placed in this year's special election, instead of the next general election.

"I do not have a problem with that amendment," Guerrero said.

The Fund and the administration also recommended the passage of a resolution endorsing bills that need to be passed to help rehabilitate the Fund, but Guerrero said some of these bills are not acceptable to lawmakers.

The Fund and the administration asked for an amendment to Public Law 6-17 or the Budgeting Act to provide a line-item amount for the pension fund versus the employer contribution rate.

The joint team also sought for the conversion of non-vested Defined Benefit Plan members to the Defined Contribution Plan, and a revision of the

cost-of-living-allowance to reflect an annual bonus "only."

They also asked for an introduction of an omnibus bill or certain provisions to help the Fund.

Guerrero said he has reservations on the fourth recommendation, which ensures that there's no additional benefits accrual or a "hard freeze" of the pension plan. The Fund and the administration said a hard freeze of the plan is only for those members who are younger than a specified age and/or have less than a specified number of years of service.

The eventual phase out of the Retirement is the last item in the plan.

"If there's any company or bank willing to buy the plan, that would be contingent upon the solvency of the plan. Who would buy it now, when the accrued liability is so high? Maybe if allowed to borrow up to \$200 million to pay for its obligations then the Fund will become self-sufficient and well funded that buyers would be interested," Guerrero said.

The Fund and the administration said the percentage of payroll, or employer contribution rate, "is outdated and should no longer be used" as a tool to calculate the Defined Contribution Plan's required funding levels.

DCP's creation, which closed the acceptance of new members into the defined benefit plan, is expected to result in the decrease in the Fund's accrued liability to members.

"The only solution is to provide for a fixed line-item appropriation. ... The required amount will still be determined by an actuarial valuation report," the team said.

thing below 3 percent is going to be very difficult," Demapan said, adding that the Judiciary also operates on Rota and Tinian.

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogu-moro (Cov-Saipan) asked the Judiciary to identify areas where they could cut.

Demapan said what the Judiciary submitted is what it thinks the courts need to effectively run the operation.

Fitial administration 'firm' in its proposal

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said "all government activities were impacted by the financial constraints we are experiencing."

"The administration is firm in its proposal as we believe all areas of government must make necessary reductions in view of our decreasing resources," he said.

The governor is required to submit a proposed balance budget on or before April 1 of every year.

"The administration worked tirelessly to ensure that the deadline was met and that the decreased projection in available resources was adhered to. ... What is important to observe is that the governor fulfilled his constitutional duty to submit a proposed balanced budget to the Legislature. The negotiation aspect of the budget now lies with the Legislature, as they are also constitutionally mandated to enact a balanced budget," Demapan added.

The administration, however, did not respond to why it didn't consult the Judiciary before submitting a budget to the Legislature.

Demapan said the Judiciary is open and willing to discussions with the Executive Branch on their budget proposal.

He pointed out that the Judiciary, Executive Branch, and Legislature are co-equal branches of the government.

Demapan likened the three branches to a three-legged stool.

"If you cut one leg, it will fall," he added.

'Historical data'

Tracy Guerrero, director of Courts, said she was told by the Office of Management and Budget that the administration used the Judiciary's "historical data" for the budget submission. Judiciary officials belied this.

For example, the "all others" expense that Fitial submitted for the Judiciary amounted to only \$38,085, when the Judiciary's real "historical data" reflects an average of \$300,000 for the same item.

Demapan said "there's no way" the Judiciary can operate on a \$38,085 "all others budget," on top of personnel expenses.

The "all others" expense includes those for the indigent service fund, utilities, maintenance, supplies and equipment.

The Judiciary, however, pointed out that they have been working on energy-saving measures with the help of federal grants. They hope to have these measures in place before the end of the year.

The House Ways and Means Committee's 2011 budget hearings continue today and tomorrow.

SAM

From Page 1

Both McPhetres and NMC confirmed this with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, saying the former instructor will return to his old position as a full-time faculty member of the college's Social Sciences Department.

McPhetres, who has been communicating with the college through his lawyer, Robert Torres, was also selected by this year's graduating class as its keynote speaker on May 22.

"I'm extremely excited to be back in the classroom and to be with the students," McPhetres said yesterday.

Interim college president Lorraine Cabrera expressed support for McPhetres' return to NMC.

"We are glad to have Sam back as a faculty member. His knowledge and vast experience has always been an asset to the college and to the CNMI," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

NMC Faculty Senate president Larry Lee said he is happy after learning of McPhetres' return.

"I am glad and overjoyed because Mr. McPhetres is a very valuable member of our faculty and I think he could contribute a lot to quality learning for our students," Lee told *Saipan Tribune*.

A group of students interviewed yesterday also welcomed the "good news," saying they're excited to see the instructor.

For several years, McPhetres had taught various courses at the institution

JUDICIARY

From Page 1

Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja also lamented the Fitial administration's failure to consult them on its budget request for the Judiciary and lack of consideration for the branch's recent restructuring.

The Judiciary's proposed FY 2011 budget is over \$5.56 million. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial wants to give it just a little over \$2.97 million, as outlined in his FY 2011 budget request to the Legislature on April 1.

"For the Executive Branch to submit a judicial budget without consulting us is unacceptable. It's very serious. We can't operate with that," Demapan told Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ramon "Ray" Basa (Cov-Saipan) and other committee members in the House chamber yesterday morning.

Demapan and Naraja asked lawmakers to give the Judiciary between 3 percent and 4 percent of the \$132 million in projected revenue for FY 2011. This is about \$3.96 million to \$5.28 million, as Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) pointed out during the budget hearing.

"If you give us between 3 percent and 4 percent, we will work hard [to live within our means] but you also have to give us the authority to reprogram funding within the Judiciary," Demapan told lawmakers.

He said the Judiciary will have difficulty operating on a budget below 3 percent of the CNMI's budget.

"We're not asking for so much. We're reaching bare bones. ... Any-

Fitial upset with Guam Legislature's resolution on GTA-IT&E feud

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitia expressed his "deep disappointment" with the Guam Legislature for passing a resolution asking the National Telecommunications and Information Administration not to award any American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money for broadband technologies to any single entity.

Guam senators passed Resolution 352-30 on a 9-1 vote on Tuesday.

The resolution favors GTA TeleGuam in its feud with IT&E over a \$90 million federal grant application for the second round of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, BTOP.

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho wrote a letter of support for IT&E's application.

GTA did not submit an application for the second round of the BTOP.

NTIA awarded \$8 million to IT&E for the first round of the BTOP. GTA applied for, but did not get, the award for this first round.

Resolution 352-30 does not oppose IT&E's application for the federal funds, but it asks that if the funds are awarded, that they be equally divided among "all established telecommunications companies" to ensure fair, level and competitive playing field.

Fitia expressed his deep disappointment with the message that Guam senators sent by passing the resolution.

"This resolution has a detrimental effect on the CNMI, as the \$8 million for IT&E in the first round of NTIA awards was made in the CNMI. The amount of contention that has been brought about by the first award by carriers that have no stake in the CNMI is upsetting. I am deeply troubled by the reso-

lution as it has a tremendously adverse effect on the region as whole," Fitia said in a statement yesterday.

GTA has contested the awarding of \$8 million in federal ARRA grant to IT&E and has been vocally opposed to their subsequent application for funding.

Fitia said it has been reported that GTA has threatened to terminate some 150 jobs if IT&E is awarded the \$89 million in the second round.

IT&E's second round application proposes to create 75 direct jobs and 850 indirect jobs such as construction workers, engineers and other professions.

Fitia said the contention around the ARRA money for BTOP places at risk the money that has already been awarded in the CNMI.

"While I can understand the competitive nature of wanting to protect private business interests, the vocal opposition of IT&E's award does not consider the impact on the CNMI. While GTA claims

that their infrastructure is built to capacity on Guam, these ARRA dollars impact the infrastructure in the CNMI, of which GTA has no stake. The extent to which this contention has reached and the disregard for the CNMI is very troublesome," Fitia said.



Fitia

The governor emphasized that the CNMI government has made it a standing rule to ensure that no interference or preference is shown to organizations competing in the private sector.

"As such, when the CNMI government was asked to rate the applications during the first round of awards, the CNMI ARRA office held public hearings and implemented a systematic and equitable method to ensure that no preference was given to any one applicant. Even when the federal government asked for our preference of applicants, we brought it back to the people to tell us which application to support," Fitia said.

The CNMI ARRA office asked each applicant to do a public presentation and had it

evaluated by a panel composed of government officials, the private sector, and the general public. The office then opened them up for public comment.

"As a result, the CNMI was able to comfortably transmit which application our community supported," he said.

The public presentations for the applicants for the second round of the BTOP awards are scheduled for today at American Memorial Park.

"By doing this, our government ensures that no preference is shown to any one applicant," the governor said.

Last week, IT&E said it will no longer comment on the merits of its second application for federal grants amounting to some \$90 million.

PSS discloses 'priorities list' for \$32.3 million stabilization fund

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A large chunk of the \$32.3 million the Public School System received under the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund will go toward the modernization of schools and retrofitting school buildings to raise their energy efficiency and bring down utility costs.

In a breakdown on how it plans to use the grant, PSS said it will use \$14.279 million to replace old window-style air conditioners with split type air conditioners that are more energy efficient. Work also includes sealing and insulating school roofs with coatings guaranteed for five years and replacing tin roofs and insulating them.

PSS officials told the Board of Education that the contract is already out for the repair work on all 20 public schools. The project is expected to begin in early June and will create 206 construction jobs.

The rest of the grant funds will be spent on the following:

- \$2.3 million, for teachers' and school leaders' training;
- \$8.5 million to restore 105 teacher and counselor posts;
- \$3.4 million to improve career and technical education;
- \$1.8 million to acquire laptops for all junior and high schools; and
- \$300,000 for utility costs for expanded CTE programs and support for PSS' extended day school programs.

The entire grant funding must be spent in two years' time.

The \$2.3 million for teach-

er training will assist 159 classroom teachers who are still working toward meeting the board's "highly qualified" requirement.

"We will continue to conduct summer seminars in the summer of 2010 and 2011 to assist our 159 teachers who have yet to pass their Praxis test of teacher core content knowledge [so they could] pass their exams. As part of our local capacity building efforts we are providing summer seminars for 120 teacher aides who are working toward their college degree to take and pass their Praxis so they can become the next generation of classroom teachers as soon as they complete their degree requirements," PSS told the board.

PSS projects to meet the board's requirement that all teachers pass the Praxis and become fully certified by July 31, 2011.

The cost of summer seminars is estimated at \$500,000 per summer—for a total of \$1 million.

For the restoration of 105 positions, budgeted at \$8.5 million, PSS has so far hired 58, but expects the number to grow at the start of new school year this September. PSS officials are convinced that schools will be able eliminate overcrowding in classrooms as many teachers would become available then.

"We are also using SFSF for technology [computers, software and network costs] in support of the one laptop per child program at our high schools and junior high schools to purchase 4,500 netbooks at a cost of \$1.744 million," the PSS report added.

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Life in Motion

College disputes 'inaccurate' utility billing

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College does not agree with earlier reports that it owes the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. \$498,602 dating back to 2009.

In a statement issued yesterday, NMC interim president Lorraine Cabrera said the college is now working with the Department of Finance to

transmit the payments it made in August and September last year, which were not counted in the figure released last week by CUC executive director Tony Muña.

Muña had cited NMC as among CUC's three biggest customers that are delinquent with their payments. He said the college, together with the central government and the Public School System, will

possibly be disconnected if the unpaid obligations are not settled soon.

The central government owes CUC \$1.3 million, Muña said, while PSS has \$3.2 million in unpaid obligations, citing CUC records as of January this year. PSS had disputed this amount.

According to Muna, NMC's nearly \$500,000 debt was as of January 2010 and dates back to billings in August 2009.

NMC said yesterday it is now working with CUC to "clarify the accuracy" of all billings.

"NMC is currently working with Finance to transmit the payments of August and September [2009], which will then significantly decrease the amount owed that had been reported in a recent newspaper article," Cabrera said.

The statement did not spec-

ify the amounts of the August and September payments.

Cabrera maintained that the college has been acting responsibly in ensuring that its electricity bills are paid.

"We will continue to work with Finance and CUC representatives to resolve, in the soonest possible time, the college's outstanding charges," she added.

Nonetheless, she said the

college community is aware of the need to conserve electricity and water in order to reduce costs. "We will continue to step up our efforts to minimize our electricity and water use and to conserve energy where we can."

NMC's utilities are paid through legislative appropriation and are paid directly by Finance to CUC. To avoid late payments, the college said it is currently working with Finance officials to ensure that funds are transmitted in a timelier manner to CUC.

2010 CNMI Tourism Month and first 'Taste' start May 1

The Northern Marianas Islands is the place to be during the month of May, as the NMI celebrates Tourism Month with the slogan, "Tourism is Everybody's Business."

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos will officially declared May as 2010 CNMI Tourism Month today, Apr. 29, at 10:30am at the Office of the Governor. Joining him for this event will be the

Marianas Visitors Authority and other industry partners.

Activities for the month have already gotten a jumpstart. On Monday, Apr. 26, nearly 100 volunteers of the community, Marianas Visitors Authority, Japan Saipan Travel Association, Korean Tour Association of Saipan, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands cleaned the Garapan

district in preparation for Tourism Month and Japan's Golden Week holiday. Volunteers collected over 400 lbs of trash and received free Tourism Month t-shirts for their efforts.

Thousands on Saipan are expected to attend the weekly Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden. The first Taste is coming up this Saturday, May 1, from 6pm to

10pm at the American Memorial Park, where revelers commonly meet friends, eat fine food, imbibe fine drinks, and enjoy live entertainment.

This week's Taste of the Marianas entertainment includes something for everyone in the family. Nicollette Lopez will sing the National Anthem at 6pm, followed by Tropikool Blendz Band starting at 6:30pm,

Pua Hinano at 7:30pm, Maika'I Band at 8:30pm, Chamolinian Warriors at 9pm, and Inatuas Cultural Dancers rounding out the evening at 9:30pm. Also going on during this first Taste of the Tourism Month is the booth decoration competition, where best booths will be awarded for use of natural and recycled decorations.

Another May must-do: demonstrating island pride. Throughout Tourism Month, each Friday will be *Hafa Adai-Tirow* Spirit Islandwear Day. The MVA invites the community to show their island pride and culture by wearing island attire or local traditional wear. Share photos of your finery, and find out what your friends and

island leaders are wearing on Facebook at "Hafa Adai Tirow Spirit Islandwear in the Northern Mariana Islands."

Also occurring in May will be the radio Tourism Trivia Game, a chance to win tokens for the Taste of the Marianas, as well as Tourism Month t-shirts. "Did You Know?" and "Fun Facts about Tourism in the NMI" will be aired regularly on 103.9 FM KZMI, Power 99, and 97.9 FM The KAT. Listeners who call in with the correct answer may be a lucky winner.

For more information about Tourism Month activities, contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at 1.670.664.3200/1 or e-mail Ed Diaz of the MVA at ediaz@my-marianas.com. (MVA)

Probable cause found against alleged illegal drugs supplier

» But judge dismisses 'ice' trafficking charge

Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos yesterday did not find probable cause to warrant the filing of trafficking of a controlled substance charge against a suspected supplier of illegal drugs who was allegedly found in possession of a gun and ammunition.

Inos said at the preliminary hearing yesterday that he has found no probable cause to believe that Eric Lizama Palacios committed the offense of drug trafficking.

The judge, however, found probable cause that one count of unlawful possession of a firearm, one count of unlawful possession of ammunition, two counts of illegal possession of controlled substance, and one count of illegal possession of government property, were committed and that Palacios may have committed the offenses.

Inos set the arraignment for May 10, 2010, at 9am and the modification hearing for today, Thursday, at 1:30pm.

Inos remanded Palacios back to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Assistant attorney general William Downer represented the government. Attorney Eric Smith served as counsel for Palacios.

Downer said there is still some debate whether the charge

of trafficking of a controlled substance is dismissed or not.

"Technically, it just means that the prisoner cannot be detained on that count because of lack of probable cause. However, it does not mean that the prosecution cannot continue to prosecute the defendant on that matter," he said.

Police arrested the 32-year-old Palacios in Kagman 3 last April 16.

Detective Sean White stated in his report that he received a call on April 5 from a concerned citizen that Palacios is active in selling "ice."

The following day, members of the CNMI Customs and the Department of Public Safety's Drug Enforcement Task Force approached Palacios' residence and spoke with him about information that he was selling "ice."

White said Palacios admitted growing the marijuana and that he was willing to give them to the detectives.

During the consent search of the house, the detective said, about five marijuana plants were recovered in the unfinished portion of the house. Police also found a shoe box containing marijuana leaves, wrapped marijuana branches, an ashtray with a weed pipe and leaves in it, and a smoked marijuana joint.

White said Detective Roque Camacho later found a chest harness (strapping system) that contained a Smith & Wesson .38 special revolver, a speed loader, and approximately 23 .38 caliber bullets. (*Ferdie de la Torre*).



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS**May Tourism Month activities**

The public is invited to join this week's Tourism Month events:

■ Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos will sign the official proclamation to declare May as CNMI Tourism Month today, April 29, 2010, at 10:30am in the Office of the Governor.

■ The first Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden will be held Saturday, May 1, at the American Memorial Park, beginning at 6pm. For more information, contact the Marianas Visitors Authority at 1.670.664.3200/1 or e-mail Ed Diaz of the MVA at ediaz@mymarianas.com. (MVA)

Democrat reunion postponed

The Democrat reunion gathering originally scheduled for April 30 at the Minachom At-dao has been postponed until further notice. (PR)

MRCDC sets meeting/teleconference today

The Marianas Resource Conservation & Development Council will hold a meeting/teleconference to elect officers on Thursday, April 29, 2010, from 5pm to 6pm, at the NRCS Saipan Service Center, DY building, Beach Road in south Garapan. The public is invited. Call 671-472-7447 for more information, participation on Tinian, Rota and Guam, or special accommodation for disability. (PR)

ARRA event today aired live by NMC

The Northern Marianas College will once again be broadcasting the CNMI American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Office's upcoming presentations for the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program Round 2 applications today, April 29, 2010, from 5pm to 7pm.

The event will be hosted at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center in Garapan, Saipan. All are invited to attend.

The presentations will also be broadcasted live via video teleconferencing to the NMC instructional sites on Tinian and Rota, the University of Guam's VTC Center, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Pacific Business Center.

This broadcast was made possible by the NMC Information Technology Department's Media Services and the NMC Administration for Native Americans Distance Learning Network Project Connect in collaboration with IT&E. (NMC)

Chamber meeting to feature Inos on financials

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its general membership meeting next Wednesday, May 5, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is \$15 for members,

\$20 for guests of members, and \$25 for general public.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos will talk about the current state of the Commonwealth's revenues and expenditures as well as expected trends in the near-term future. This will be a great opportunity for members to hear about the actual numbers our government is working with and should add some context to the current budget discussions. (SCC)

OPA staff on Rota and Tinian

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota on April 29 and on Tinian on April 30 to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials.

Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office from 12:30pm to 4:30pm on April 29. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission conference room from 9am to 4:30pm on April 30.

All filers must bring with them some form of photo ID, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services.

For any inquiries or comments, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. (OPA)

Art contest for grade school students

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is sponsoring an art contest for grade school students concerning the impacts of marine debris on coastal waters. The contest is targeted for grade school students from K-4 through 5 and 8 from the U.S. states and all its territories. All recognized public, private, and home schools are encouraged to participate. This is a great way to get the children involved in marine debris and its effect on coastal waters.

Entries (entry form and artwork) should be mailed to:

Art Contest
ATTN: Megan Forbes
NOAA Marine Debris Program
1305 East-West Highway
SSMC4, 10th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

If you have any questions, contact Carey Morishige at Carey.Morishige@noaa.gov, call (808) 397-2651 Ext. 256, or visit www.marinedebris.noaa.gov. (PR)

SVES registration schedule

San Vicente Elementary School registration for school year 2010-2011 will begin on May 24, 2010, from 9am to 12pm and from 1pm to 4pm in the school's main office.

For kindergarten enrollees, the child must be 5 years on or before Aug. 31, 2005, as per BOE policy. Date of birth: between Sept. 1, 2004 and Aug. 31, 2005.

Registration requirements: Birth certificate or passport, health certificate, health/accident insurance, map of residential location, power of attorney/legal guardianship (if applica-

ble), copy of report card, unofficial transcript with the address and phone number of the last school attended.

■ Kindergarten: May 24-28, 2010

■ 1st-3rd grade: June 1-4

■ 4th-6th grade: June 7-11

All newcomers must bring the necessary documents above. Should you have any questions, contact 237-3791. (PR)

Kagman High sets Junior Night

To all parents/guardians of Kagman High School students, Junior Night is set for May 11, 2010, from 5pm to

7pm at the KHS Cafeteria. If you have any questions, call 237-3840, ask for Mr. Cabrera or Mrs. Sablan. (KHS)

Koblerville group to host beautification project

The Koblerville Community Coalition Neighborhood Watch Group will be performing its first Koblerville Beautification and Crime Prevention Project on Saturday, May 15, 2010, at the Koblerville runway (old airport field behind Tottotville), from 10am to 3pm. Volunteers are needed for this project. Call Rose T.

Ada-Hocog at 287-0818 for more information. (PR)

NMC English placement test schedule

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English placement tests for the Summer 2010 semester on the following dates:

■ May 13, 1pm - 4pm, Room A-6

■ May 13, 5pm - 8pm, Room D-1

■ May 18, 5pm - 8pm, Room D-1

■ July 1, 1pm - 4pm, Room D-1

Those who wish to take the

test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils.

There is a \$25 fee for the English Placement Test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (M-F, 8:30am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee). Payment for the NMC application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions, contact James Kline at (670) 234-5498 ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242. (NMC)



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³ Guam and CNMI residents and branches only. Must have a Continental Airlines OnePass account to receive OnePass miles. No purchase necessary. All OnePass terms and conditions apply. See branch for official rules.

Few days left to vote in RP elections

Only a few days remain for the conduct of overseas absentee voting for the 2010 Philippine national elections.

The Philippine Consulate General on Saipan shall receive ballots of registered Filipino overseas absentee voters until May 10, 2010, at 8pm, the last day of voting.

Until the end of the voting period on May 10, 2010, the consulate shall remain open on weekends and holidays from 8am to 4pm and during regular weekdays from 9am to 5pm.

More than a thousand voters have already submitted their accomplished ballots. Close to 700 voters, however, have obtained

their ballot package but have yet to submit their accomplished ballots to the consulate. Furthermore, more than 5,000 ballot package remain unclaimed at the consulate.

Registered Filipino overseas absentee voters are advised to visit or call the consulate to arrange for the mailing of their bal-

lot packets. Complete ballots may be submitted directly or mailed to the consulate. All registered Filipino overseas absentee voters are advised to submit their complete ballots as soon as possible and avoid the last day rush.

The Philippine Consulate General reiterated its call to registered Filipino overseas absentee voters to use their right to vote for their country's next leaders. **(PR)**

IT&E is newest MMAC title sponsor

IT&E has been named a title sponsor of the 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer. Title sponsorship is the most prestigious form of sponsorship for the Marianas March Against Cancer and is bestowed on companies that donate \$3,000 or more in cash or services.

"IT&E is one of the oldest continuous sponsors of the MMAC and the 2010 MMAC committee expresses their

genuine and heartfelt gratitude for their untiring support in the fight against cancer," said 2010 MMAC public relations committee chair Christopher A. Concepcion.

As part of their sponsorship agreement, IT&E has donated a phone line and DSL Internet connection to the Commonwealth Cancer Association. They will also be sending out brochures with MMAC infor-

mation to all IT&E customers. Furthermore, IT&E has donated an aircard with one year free Internet service, which will be raffled out at the 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer.

The 2010 MMAC will be held on May 14-15 from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao.

"We are also looking for dancers, singers, bands and other entertainers who are interested

in performing live at the 2010 MMAC. There are different time slots available from 6pm to 6am so we're inviting all entertainers to show their support in the fight against cancer by volunteering to perform live at the 2010 MMAC. Please contact 2010 MMAC entertainment committee chair L.J. Castro at 483-1027 or via email ljc27@hotmail.com or Jojo Camacho at 483-3109 or via email jojo@marpacspn.com," said Concepcion.

For more information on the 2010 MMAC call 483-4207 or visit www.ccamarianas.org. **(MMAC)**

Applications for PIC Scholarship now available

Application forms for the Pacific Islands Club Saipan Scholarship are now available for pickup at the Northern Marianas College Financial Aid Office and will be made available for download at the college's Web site at www.nmcnet.edu by the end of the week. The deadline to submit the application and all other required documents is July 2, 2010.

The PIC Saipan Scholarship will be providing seven NMC students \$500 a semester for up to three semesters. The college offers associate degrees in business administration, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, and hospitality management.

The scholarships are based on merit and financial need and will be awarded to the recipient on the bases of the candidate's community involvement, academic background, letters of recommendation, and a written essay. An interview may also be required.

To be eligible, a student must be a U.S. citizen (or green card holder) and a CNMI resident for the past three years; be accepted and enrolled as a full-time student at NMC; have a high school or college cumulative GPA of 2.00 or better; and, be able to demonstrate financial need.

The purpose of the scholarship is to promote higher education by providing financial assistance for college students in their pursuit of professional careers, to help alleviate the critical current and future shortage of skilled and trained workforce for the CNMI, and to provide current public and private sector employees with opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills and enhance their career and professional development.

For more information, contact NMC's Financial Aid Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1527. **(NMC)**

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 29, 1999

DEQ seeks tighter control on water business

Investors planning to set up bottled water businesses in the CNMI must be given an overview of the regulations imposed by the Division of Environmental Quality to make sure that they comply with the health and sanitation standards. According to Joe Kaipat, acting branch manager of the Safe Drinking Water Branch, such procedure would prepare investors in this type of business and also protect the health of consumers. DEQ implements a random check of bottled waters bought in different retail stores on the island. If results of the analysis show the water is positive for total coliform, the establishment is immediately ordered closed.

Cut in retirement contribution for excepted service employees eyed

Legislators have proposed eliminating retirement contribution of government employees under excepted service contract as part of the efforts to reduce obligation of the Commonwealth to the Retirement Fund amid the current financial crisis. If the plan pushes through, it will remove the 24 percent share of the government for every six percent contribution of these contractual employees who get a refund of the entire amount upon reaching the 10th year of public service. The government portion, however, remains with the Retirement Fund. But Rep. Oscar M. Babauta yesterday cautioned the Legislature against the move, saying they have to weigh constitutional provisions that ensure retirement benefits to civil service employees as well as those under special contracts.

April 29, 2002

Youth senators want betel nut spitting penalized

The 4th Youth Congress has passed a bill that would include betel nut spitting and tobacco spitting in the definition of littering, thus making it unlawful to spit betel nut and tobacco in public places. The bill, Youth Congress Bill 4-03, was passed during last week's session. It now goes to the House of Representatives for consideration. If the Legislature considers the bill worthy of passage, a counterpart bill will be passed to make it into a law. The measure, as authored by Youth Sen. Perry Inos, would amend 2 CMC Section 3411 of the Commonwealth Litter Control Act of 1989 to include betel nut spit and tobacco spit within the definition of "litter" and the act of spitting these in the definition of "littering."

Administration backs immunity bill

The Babauta administration expressed support to a legislative measure that seeks to grant limited immunity to illegally staying aliens in the Commonwealth, as Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente recognized the contributions of Filipino workers, especially to the local economy. Benavente made the statement in an interview at the Dai-Ichi Hotel Saturday, where he was guest to an affair hosted by the United Filipino Organization, the umbrella group of registered Filipino associations in the CNMI. Filipinos in the Commonwealth account for the bulk of its population and workforce. If illegally staying aliens are given the chance to register without being prosecuted, the benefit would trickle down to the Filipino community, since it is believed that there are Filipinos staying illegally in the CNMI.

April 29, 2003

Blue Ridge, 7th Fleet sailors help make Saipan beautiful

USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19) and 7th Fleet staff sailors, participating in the military exercise Tandem Thrust '03, took part in a community service project to help make Saipan more attractive to visitors and residents. The sailors, along with members of the local community, helped plant trees and shrubbery along Saipan's main road. Rep. William Torres, who chairs the House Committee on U.S. Federal and Foreign Affairs, said the project that Blue Ridge and 7th Fleet Sailors participated in was part of an ongoing community effort to beautify the main thoroughfare from Saipan International Airport to the tourist area.

Strong immune system best in fight vs SARS

Internet publications indicating international experts' opinion on the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome show that the disease can be fought at this time only by a person with a strong immunity system. An online article that has been posted in China and Singapore news websites and written by Parco M. Siu, PhD, a candidate at the West Virginia University School of Medicine, said a person cannot avoid the infection "unless you avoid those infected individuals/areas." However, Siu said: "You can try your best to boost up your immune function by several regimes."



How is your baby growing?

If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:

Developmental Health Watch Birth to 3 Months

- Does not seem to respond to loud noises
- Does not notice hands by 2 months
- Does not follow moving objects with eyes by 2 to 3 months
- Does not smile at people by 3 months
- Cannot support head well by 3 months
- Does not reach for and grasp toys by 3 to 4 months
- Does not babble by 3 to 4 months
- Has trouble moving one or both eyes in all directions
- Crosses eyes most of the time (occasional crossing of the eyes is normal in these first months)
- Does not pay attention to new faces, or seems very frightened by new faces or surroundings

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the **Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C*DAC)** at **664-4830** for a **FREE** developmental screening!

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early. Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.



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taf
The Athlete's Foot

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Arizona leads, sort of

Thank you, Arizona.

Despite our strong condemnation of a new law that will likely promote racial profiling of Latinos in your state, we must acknowledge that you have accomplished what many others—including senators, committed activists and a willing president—have failed to achieve. You put immigration back on the national agenda.

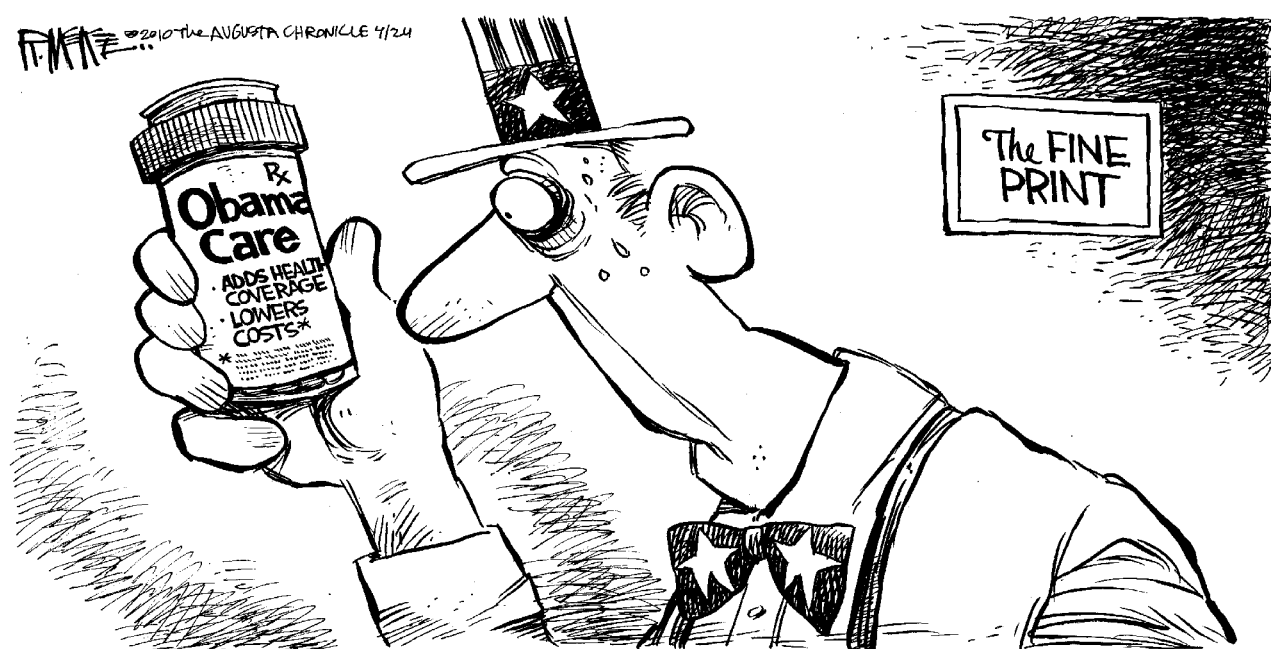
The truth is, something had been missing from the latest push for comprehensive immigration reform. It had been a campaign in search of a movement. This lack of emotional traction persisted despite the earnest efforts of advocates who lobbied Congress, pressured President Obama to keep his campaign promise and rallied their troops to Washington. But even when thousands of immigrants and their allies converged on the National Mall in March, the nation paid little heed: The House was voting on health care reform that day.

Now that Arizona has made it a crime for immigrants—legal or otherwise—not to carry identification, and now that police are required to ascertain the immigration status of anyone they reasonably suspect is in the state illegally, the nation is awake to the unconscionable extremes states might pursue if there is no federal reform. Arizona state Sen. Russell Pearce, who sponsored the legislation, says opponents are overreacting and that the law has safeguards to prevent racial profiling. To fear that will happen, he says, is to lack faith in the police. We have faith that the police will be just as confused as everyone else about whom to suspect of being in the state illegally. Their starting points, almost certainly, will be brown skin, dark hair and accented English.

Over the weekend, on “Meet the Press,” Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, D-Conn., said that immediate federal action is necessary. “Before the events get further out of hand, we’ve got to step up and do the job,” he said. And he’s right. The United States has made no progress toward a coherent immigration policy in the past few years, but last week Arizona demonstrated that the country isn’t just inert, it is actually sliding backward. So if this travesty of a law inspires Congress to act and develop a sensible new policy, we have Arizona to thank.

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FINE 2010 THE AUGUSTA CHRONICLE 4/24



*DOES NOT ACTUALLY LOWER COSTS, MAY CAUSE SENIORS TO LOSE MEDICARE COVERAGE. SIDE EFFECTS INCLUDE NAUSEA, RAPID HEARTBEAT, SWEATY PALMS, HEADACHES, CHEST PAINS, FEELINGS OF FEAR AND ANXIETY, BULGING EYEBALLS, A LIGHTNESS IN THE WALLET AREA, HYSTERIA AND VOMITING. IF CONDITIONS PERSIST FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS, CONSULT YOUR PHYSICIAN. (IF YOUR PHYSICIAN STILL IS YOUR PHYSICIAN, AND IF YOU CAN ACTUALLY GET IN.)

China Trails 2: Pudong and the Bund

The biweekly charter flights from and to Shanghai are now a Monday and Friday occurrence. Compared to the inaugural flight to Beijing in March when the passengers in the return flight numbered less than the total of my fingers and toes, the passenger count on the return flight to Shanghai quite literally spilled into the aisles. There were three of us assigned to seat 6G. It was quickly sorted out but there was not an empty seat in the airborne cabin.

We won't sing praises for Shanghai Airlines. If they continue with the quality of their in-flight service, they won't need anyone to fine-tune their accolades. The service will speak for itself; the staff's English is sounding more intelligible though the intercom announcements could be better! Now, if only Shanghai Airlines (and China Southern for the Guangzhou traffic) start making the chartered flights regularly scheduled ones so that passengers can start claiming mileage credits, Saipan-originating regulars will be pleased.

Our China trails begin (though our first report was an assault on the imagination occasioned by the massive destruction in Yushu from a recent quake) in this phenomenal human creation of the recent past, the Pudong International Airport, within fish line-casting distance from the mouth of the Chiang Jiang (the Yangtze).

Previously, the Hong Qiao airport on the west side of the city carried the global traffic, but in the early '90s, the municipal council decided to develop the rice paddies east across the Huangpu, and in 20 years, a new financial district (that has surpassed NYC in volume and patronage) and an industrial center (beyond Silicon Valley and the now war-zone-devastated-looking Detroit) emerged, so much so that the economic health of the city has enough muscle to host the 2010 World Expo that we hope to visit before returning to Saipan.

The test run on the transport, entrance stills, light and water, and other Fair site facilities went on trial last week, with the public being told to stay away for three days from the event's opening on May 1 if they do not have a ticket; it is totally sold out, and non-ticket holders will be refused entry. The tight monitoring of scalps and the steep fines on those who might engage in the practice render the acquisition of not previously ordered tickets virtually impossible!

On our first trip to Shanghai in 1989, we landed in Hong Qiao five months after the Tiananmen rebellion was quashed. The government was eager to regain the confidence of the world and our group, consisting of dependents of Manila's diplomatic corps, was showered with exemplary and luxurious welcome as we visited Beijing (the Forbidden City and the Great Wall), Xi'an (Qin Shi Huangdi's terracotta warriors), Shanghai (the Bund), Suzhou (the gardens along the human dug canals) and Hangzhou (West Lake and mulberry silk). The Friendship Store was the only official shop allowed for foreigners then to purchase goods and use their yuan, as opposed to the local Renminbi (People's currency).

All of that is gone. There is only one currency in use now, and with Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner's recent visit and the Obama administration's pressure, we might see a reevaluation of the yuan closer to its actual global market value. That might not be unfavorable to the currency; it might actually realize what Beijing has been pushing lately, that is, in the global salad of currencies,

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



for international trade, the yuan could actually carry its own weight without being pegged first to the US dollar.

Back to Pudong, which is our point here, a symbol of the possibilities of the urban future. I am reminded of the words of an innocent Shanghai nurse when she first arrived on Saipan in 2001: the Saipan airport looked like our city's abattoir! This, of course, at the height of our exploitation of Chinese labor and student recruits, the party quoted from included.

The Maglev train is only one of Shanghai's offerings to the Pudong-descending crowd. It is one of only two experiments in magnetic levitation in the world, using Zurich's technology and example. But the ambience of Pudong is not just very user-friendly, it is friendly. If there is anything Shanghai seems to value in keeping up "face," it is that it keeps itself current to the fashion trends of the world. Thanks to Lancome, Maybelline, CD, Chanel, and their ilk, our partial male perspective on the ladies is one of gratitude and delight for keeping the fair sex very fair.

The latest offerings from Paris, London, Milan, New York, Seoul and Tokyo walk the aisles of Pudong any given day. That includes Tokyo's often hard to understand effort on how to look like Saipan Hopwood Middle School student with a lot of expense, fanfare, and gazillion of photo shoots!

It is the Bund that has done a surgical facelift. Until three years ago, Zhongshan Rd. by the Huangpu was a carbon monoxide haven for smoke belching behemoths on an expanded road. Now, the traffic has gone underground and the thoroughfare, a pedestrian-friendly passage. The Bund from the Chen Yi Square in honor of the first city manager to the Shiliupu is a sight to behold, with the promenade easy on the gait, facing a river in the process of being cleaned up, toward the new skyline in Pudong that includes the famed Oriental Pearl TV tower in Mingzhu Park.

In the Bund itself where the European architecture of pre-WWII prominence still prevail and maintained with the declaration of the old buildings as heritage architecture, the red flag of the PRC now flies over all the buildings as new occupants take over what used to be capitalist offices, including HSBC.

"Better city, better life" is the slogan for the Shanghai Expo and 200 exhibits are on the ground on both side of the river by Lupu bridge, to showcase what the world is doing to host half of the world's population that now lives in urban centers like Shanghai. With our CNMI public officials' penchant for travel, we could only encourage a trip to Shanghai this summer, and of course, we will hold them accountable for what they learn that is applicable to our situation in the Marianas.

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Winners and losers

Make your life a masterpiece by taking the 60 Day Challenge. You are the artist that can create any life you want by setting and achieving worthwhile goals. Each week until May 20th this column will share ideas and stories to help motivate you toward your objectives.

There are only two kinds of people: those who place people into different groups and those that don't. In this article, we're going to look at two different groups and identify the difference between winners and losers.

In reality, people are too complex and there is too much bias when one tries to categorize individuals and create class distinctions. Life isn't all about winning and losing, and it's difficult to sort individuals in these two groups because a person who appears to have lost may emerge to become a winner. Conversely, a winner sometimes ends up losing important people in his life to get the win. A winner in one situation may be a loser in another.

With that said, here is our list of characteristics that distinguishes winners from losers. They encompass the attitudes, thoughts, and actions of people who are winners. If you want to reach your goals, you need to adopt the winning attitude to increase your odds.

As you read through each one, make a check mark on which category you feel you have an affinity toward. If you tally the marks and find that most of them are on the "loser" side, you might want to consider recharging your attitude.

Winners are dreamers; losers are schemers.

- Winners find a way; losers whine away.
- Winners are good at making plans; losers are good at making excuses.
- Winners don't need excuses because losers have them all.
- Winners get up when they fall; losers fail to get up.
- Winners focus on the future, while losers blame the past.
- Winners see opportunities in every problem; losers see problems in every opportunity.
- Winners make a life; losers just make a living.
- Winners will do things that losers don't like to do.
- Winners take responsibility; losers find fault.
- Winners keep their promises; losers avoid commitment.
- Winners find ways to make things better; losers keep things the way they've always been.
- Winners get better during challenges; losers get bitter when difficulties strike.
- Winners say, "It's my job to help you," while losers say, "I can't help you, it's not my job."
- Winners do what's necessary; losers only do what's convenient.
- Winners say, "It may be difficult, but it's possible," while losers say, "It may be possible, but too difficult."
- Winners make the future a reality, while losers make reality fit their past.
- Winners are givers; losers are takers.
- Winners dare to fail, losers fail to dare.
- Winners put people over things; losers put things before people.
- Winners work hard; losers hardly work.

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults.



- Winners do to others what they would want done; losers do it to others before they can do it to them.
- Winners are a part of a team; losers tear a team apart.
- Winners get going when the going gets tough; losers get lost when the going gets rough.
- Winners want everyone to win; losers believe everyone must lose for them to win.
- Winners look for the long-term solution; losers rely on the short-term fix.
- Winners think before speaking; losers speak without thinking.
- Winners make things happen; while losers wonder: "what happened?"
- Be a winner and make the remainder of time left in the challenge count. Sometimes the difference between a winner and loser is a subtle shift in attitude. Learn from your mistakes, keep picking yourself up when you fall, and you'll finish the challenge as a winner.

Letters to the Editor

Bringing back biking on Saipan

I am relatively new to Saipan and have but one complaint. We live on such a small island that all of us could be biking most of the time, making the roads safer, the air cleaner and people of Saipan healthier. However, the general population here makes biking to work or the store a life-threatening task.

Through no fault of most people here, the roads have been made to completely discourage any walking or biking at all. There are no sidewalks or bike lanes on most of our roads. Riding down any main road I am constantly swerving to avoid potholes and trees as

I'm riding through the ditch. Why not ride on the pavement? I have tried this method and find that most people have a blatant disregard for the safety of the lone biker trying to get from point A to B without using fossil fuels. I have been nearly run down by innumerable cars, had my riding partner hit by one, and have been pushed off the road by buses on nearly every trip. *Where are people going in such a hurry that is more important than the life of the biker sharing the road?*

This is not to say that no one is conscious of biker safety, and I commend those of you who are. But, can the rest of us not take a few seconds, slow down, and move into the other lane? I've even had police SUVs buzz past me, giving me only a foot of clearance, as if I'm but a sign on the curb. I'm not asking for a complete reconstruction of the roads here, I'm just asking for people to show a little respect for those of us doing our part to save natural resources and curb climate change by driving less and biking more.

I'm also asking the police to start enforcing laws to protect bik-

ers, or at very least, not put us in danger with your patrol vehicles. Slow down as you pass bikers. Give us a few feet of space. Currently almost every biker I've talked to has been hit or has been with someone when they got hit by a vehicle (a ridiculous statistic!). Many have stopped taking their bikes, but if we all work a little to make biking a safer activity here, more people will ride. Gradually our roads will become less congested and our air will become healthier for our children. Anyone with concerns similar to mine, please contact me (rachel.zuercher@gmail.com) and we can work to bring back biking as safe form of alternative transportation on Saipan.

Rachel Zuercher
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Prevent it from happening

As a concerned citizen of the Commonwealth I would like to take this moment to ask our lawmakers if the safety issue of the Beach Road pathway has ever been raised as an issue. As an avid walker, I and many others are very concerned about our safety. I am not sure if there has been a law that was implemented regarding this issue, but if there is none, I suggest that our lawmakers consider this serious issue.

My suggestion is to have our lawmakers pass laws that restrict bikers off the pathway. At any given moment, bikers can strike joggers, walkers, or children on the pathway. This new law will prevent anyone from getting hurt or killed. Our lawmakers should not wait for an incident like this to happen. We should prevent and not wait. This is my opinion and concern. I believe it will also be beneficial to the safety of bikers.

Another concern I have is an issue that is located at the Smiling

Cove Marina, just north of the Puerto Rico Dump is a very isolated area. Someone can easily hide in the bushes and attack walkers, joggers, and especially women. It is most dangerous when there is no more light and the place is almost completely dark. To prevent issues such as this, the government should put up fencing along the side of this pathway until the north of the old dumping area. This method would also prevent people from capturing land crabs.

My brothers and sisters of the Commonwealth, are there any people that have opinions and concerns similar to these? I encourage you to write a letter to the editor to voice our opinions. My overall point is safety for the people. Let us prevent anything bad from happening, before it is too late.

Ray Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

Dancing to the same music

Your Saturday, April 24, 2010 article, "31 pct. of school administrators meet requirements" is one that ticks the brain to derive what exactly is 31 percent of what. Reading a bit more into the article, I found that 12 administrators passed the PSS competency threshold. Well if 12 of the whole passed, then what is the whole? Doing a simple arithmetic tells us that PSS has 38.71 or 39 administrators (12/.31 = 38.71). Since, 12 had passed, therefore 27 have not passed the competency standard. Percentage presentation alone could not make good explanation. Furthermore, the same article stated that 73 percent of all teachers and 62 percent of all counselors are deemed highly qualified teachers. The same question, 73 percent and 62 percent of what? For instance, if 73 percent of teachers represent 200 teachers, then one can calculate the number of teachers in PSS and then figure out how many have not passed or are not deemed highly qualified.

So far PSS has honed down on the teachers, administrators, and

counselors with respect to testing and proof of competency. If teachers, administrators, and counselors are professionals requiring proof of competency, this also begs the same standard for all professionals in PSS such as accountants, human resources, planners, and all other positions requiring know-how in the scientific field, greater degree of accountability in job responsibilities, and problem-solving tasks requiring broader discretion that turns out greater impact on PSS as an institution in the CNMI. If PSS is making competency of professionals a key to its concern as an institution and enterprise in the CNMI, then it should treat all professionals in PSS equally without exception. This is only fair, balanced and rational, but more importantly sort of making everyone in PSS dance to the same music.

Francisco R. Agulto
Chalan Kanoa, District 2, Saipan

A different issue altogether

In response to Mr Keiper, you state that only Chamorros should be allowed to own land in the CNMI. Do you own land in Arizona where you currently reside? Would you think it fair that Arizona had laws stating that, in order to own land you had to be born in Arizona? You also state that land in the CNMI should only be sold to Chamorros. Who bought your family land that your brother sold? Would it make any difference to you today who held title to that land? Could you make them give it back? No, you would have to buy it from the present owner. Your letter makes no sense other than you think the people of the CNMI need to be protected from themselves. Your issue seems to be with your brother and not with who can and cannot own land in the CNMI.

Paul Beebe
Spokane, Washington

A correct choice

Farewell and congratulations to Dr. John B. Joyner, a fantastic, enthusiastic, and genuinely caring public servant. You have my vote, John, for "Public Servant of the Decade" for the way you share practical wisdom and professionalism. Because you bring positive change to the way government does business with business your four-year leadership at CRM marked massive improvement in the government's guidance of marine sports business.






Thank you for personally looking out for our welfare and for following suggestions to advance the marine sports industry. Your ageless, timeless spirit is an inspiration to us all. Best wishes as you take on the senior policy adviser challenge, a correct choice by Ben and Eloi.

Ray Alvarez
South Garapan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 82 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲ 87 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 79
Majuro	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 79

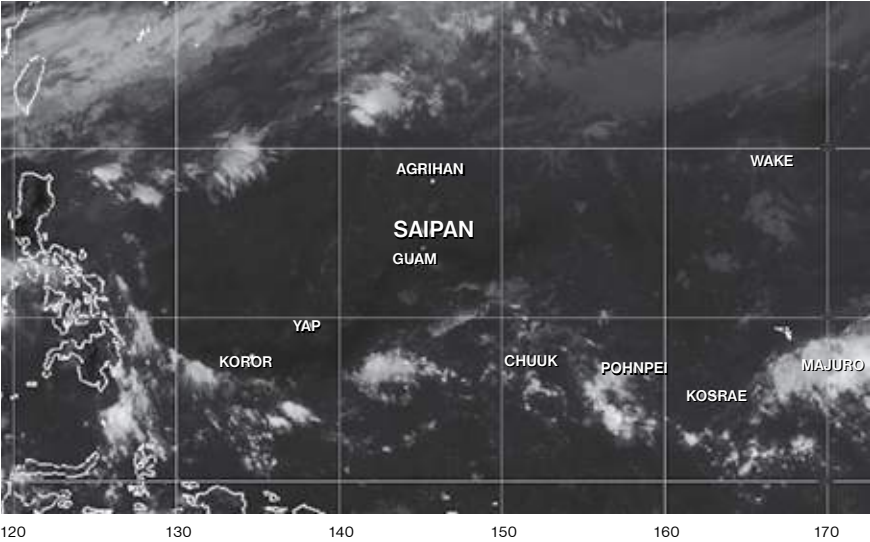
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 58
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 45
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 72 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 72
London	Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 48
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 49
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 90 ▼ 84
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 55
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 67
New York	Windy	▲ 58 ▼ 43
Osaka	Rain	▲ 63 ▼ 49
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 52
Pusan	Windy	▲ 61 ▼ 49
Rome	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 54
Salem	Showers	▲ 55 ▼ 42
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 47
Seoul	Windy	▲ 58 ▼ 44
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 65 ▼ 52
Washington, DC	Windy	▲ 63 ▼ 46

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
2:03 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet	
7:15 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	
2:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet	
9:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northeast of Wake Island at 25N170E to 22N160E then continues westward as a nearly stationary front to just northwest of the far northernmost Mariana Islands at 22N141E and finally southwestward to beyond 130E at 18N. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along this boundary and northward to beyond 25N. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers south and west of Koror with-in 90 miles of a line from 7N130E to 4N135E to EQ136E. A weak circulation is centered southeast of Yap near 7N143E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located between 6N and 8N from 141E to 146E. Trade-wind convergence is also triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms between Chuuk and Pohnpei within 100 miles of a line from 9N154E to 3N159E. A surface trough reaches northeastward from EQ164E to 7N170E. Trade winds converging near and east of the trough are generating scattered showers over Tarawa, Majuro and just southeast of Kwajalein south of a line from 3N162E to 9N170E to 8N180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:34 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:54 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	5:53 AM	6:35 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:20 PM	6:02 AM
Friday	8:19 PM	6:53 AM
Saturday	9:16 PM	7:47 AM
Sunday	10:10 PM	8:42 AM
Monday	10:59 PM	9:37 AM

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 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
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- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 7, 2010											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM						GUAM-ROTA (ROP)					
C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5			C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7		
SAIPAN-GUAM						GUAM-SAIPAN					
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily			C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily			C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily		
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7			C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily		
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily			C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily			C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily		
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily			C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	5:55am	8:35am	Daily			DL290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily		
DL297	3:35pm	6:15pm	Daily			DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily		
DL289	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily			DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5			OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1			OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7			OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6			FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6			CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN			OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN						via ICN		
OZ606/703	2:20am	11:00pm	1 via ICN			OZ706/607	3:35am	2:20am+1	4, 7 via PUS		
OZ606/703	2:50am	11:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM		
						OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ608/705	3:20am	12:10am+1	1, 5 via PUS			OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM			PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau			C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3, 5 via GUM-Palau		
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM			C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG						HONG KONG-SAIPAN					
OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN			OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN						via ICN		
OZ606/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7		
C09603/909	3:05am	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM						via ICN		
						OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
						OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
						C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM		
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily	FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily	FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily	FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily	FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily	FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily	FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily	FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily	FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily				
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NMC Upward Bound student set to attend JSA at Princeton

A student from the Northern Marianas College's Upward Bound Program will be attending the Junior Statesmen of America summer program at Princeton University in New Jersey this summer.

Marianas High School junior Ignacio Dela Cruz received his acceptance letter last month and is currently preparing for a summer full of challenging classes focused on government and foreign relations as well as congressional debate workshops covering the pressing issues of today.

"The Upward Bound staff and I are very proud of Ignacio," said UBP director Marian Tudela. "We look forward to hearing his stories when he returns after the summer."

In order to be accepted into

the summer program, Dela Cruz wrote three essays: one about why he should be accepted into the program, one on a current issue, and one for scholarship. He also had to receive top recommendations from school counselors and teachers and maintain a stellar high school transcript.



Dela Cruz

At the summer program, Dela Cruz will reside in a university dormitory and attend classes in university classrooms. Certain days of the week will also be set aside for guest speakers that will include past U.S. Presidents and other leaders in the world of politics.

JSA is a national organization that affords high school students the opportunity to meet and discuss top issues around the world. (NMC)

CCA: Cancer registry 'long overdue'

The Commonwealth Cancer Association has affirmed that the establishment of a population-based cancer registry in the CNMI is long overdue, in response to a Senate bill that seeks to create one in the Commonwealth.

In a letter addressed to the bill's author, Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), CCA board president Alex Sablan disclosed that the CNMI is one of the last jurisdictions in the United States without a standardized cancer registry.

According to Sablan, the data collected for the cancer registry will be instrumental in identifying and monitoring cancer demographics and trends in the CNMI and throughout the Pacific region.

"Public health officials will

be able to track risk factors associated with the known cancers, and thereby develop more targeted and more effective cancer prevention, intervention, and outreach programs in the community," he said.

Sablan said that cancer patients in the CNMI are often diagnosed and treated either here or off-island, while some are diagnosed with more than one type of cancer. In this case, "a cancer registry would allow for the various medical reports that may be associated with one patient to be consolidated into one record, and thereby facilitate more integrated and appropriate care for that patient."

Sablan also cited the strategic planning done by the University of Hawaii John

A. Burns School of Medicine and the Centers for Disease Control that resulted in a cooperative agreement that would set up a regional registry that comprises cancer registries of Pacific islands under U.S. jurisdiction.

The University of Hawaii and CDC will then assist local registries, including the CNMI, "in developing appropriate procedures and policies, conducting training, and providing other resources for the effective implementation of the local and regional registries."

Once the CNMI cancer registry is established, a full-time cancer registrar will be hired and fully funded through the cooperative agreement until 2012. After

that period, other funding sources must be identified to support the registry.

Sablan said the proposed Cancer Registry Act of 2010 will address "the lack of timely and available cancer data to guide the formation of public health policies and the delivery of care."

The bill mandates all providers of diagnostic or treatment services to report information about each new case of cancer to the Department of Public Health. It also allows DPH to come up with regulations to ensure comprehensive reporting as well as protect the privacy of all data and the individuals who comply with the law.

The bill is Senate Bill 17-10. (Saipan Tribune)



Nippon General Trading Corp., dba Country House Restaurant and Restaurant Moby Dick, personnel manager Alice Lisua, left, presents Northern Marianas College Foundation president Ben Babauta a \$1,000 check donation in support of the recently-held 8th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Open.

Country House, Moby Dick give \$1,000 to the NMC Foundation

In an effort to help raise funds for the advancement of educational opportunities and resources in the CNMI, Nippon General Trading Corp., which does business as Country House Restaurant and Restaurant Moby Dick, recently donated \$1,000 to the NMC Foundation.

"We are very proud to be supporting the NMC Foundation and all its efforts to provide for the students of NMC," said NGT Corp. president Masanobu Sago.

The donation was presented in support of the recently held 8th Annual NMC Foundation Golf Open, which is organized by the NMC Founda-

tion. The tournament, the organization's signature event, aimed to raise critical funds to support NMC's academic programs and services.

"We are thankful for Country House Restaurant's donation," said NMC Foundation president Ben Babauta. "With their donation, we were able to raise a considerable sum to support instructional programs and services at the college."

The golf tournament was held this past Saturday, April 24, 2010, at the Saipan Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman. Close to 150 golfers met on the links and competed for over \$100,000 in prizes. (NMC)

Opening Special

ROSSA NOBAR

5:30pm to 12:00am

GARAPAN

BEACH ROAD

Individual/Group Dance Contest on May 7, 2010

1 st Place	\$500.00 + gift
2 nd Place	\$300.00 + gift
3 rd Place	\$100.00 + gift

For more information on how to join, please call 234-5050

G99

SAIPAN'S PREMIER DISCOTHEQUE CLUB

8:00pm to 1:00am

April 29, 30 & May 1

FREE ENTRANCE FEE FOR LOCALS ONLY

Need to present ID

Obama admin backs Sablan’s Rota Park study bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Obama administration gave its support to a bill authorizing study of Rota as a site for a National Park at a congressional hearing yesterday. The House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands took testimony on H.R. 4686, the Rota Cultural and Natural Resources Study Act, which was introduced by U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) in February.

Katherine Stevenson, testifying on behalf of the Department of the Interior, said the department supports H.R. 4686, although she asked for three years to complete a study, not the 18 months called for in Sablan’s bill.

Referring to an earlier reconnaissance survey in 2005, Stevenson told the subcommittee that “the natural and cultural re-

sources of the island of Rota are significant to island residents, the CNMI, and the entire nation and merit protection.”

But, Stevenson warned, “the people of Rota and their political leaders find themselves at a crossroads regarding the uses to which their lands are being put. Major land use changes are continuing to take place,” referring to the transfer of public land to private ownership.

Subcommittee chair Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) responded by asking Stevenson whether this means it’s a good time or a bad time to go ahead with a study. Answered Stevenson: “I believe it’s a good time.”

Also on hand to testify, at Sablan’s invitation, was Rota Rep. Teresita A. Santos, who chairs the House Standing Commit-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

After the hearing on U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan’s Rota National Park study bill, CNMI Rep. Teresita A. Santos of Rota met House Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands chair Raúl Grijalva, Interior Appropriations Subcommittee chair Jim Moran, and Sablan outside the hearing room. “I am very grateful to Chairman Grijalva for moving my bill so quickly through the process,” said Sablan, “and very appreciative of Chairwoman Santos for coming all this way to testify in favor of the Rota Park study.”

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	Civil Action No. 09-0027-CV
vs.	
MARTIN B. ADA, Defendants.	NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 30, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 566 NEW-9-2-R1 , consisting of 873 square meters, and Lot No. 566 NEW-9-2-R2, consisting of 2,194 square meters located in San Vicente, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Located on the property is a fully concrete, three bedroom, one bathroom house with a porch and one car garage / carport. House is approximately 15 years old, and in need of some interior repair. Existing power and sewage hook-up, and paved road to house.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on **June 1, 2010**, at the hour of **10:00 am**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.

b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) To reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, PO Box 5003758 CK, Saipan, MP 9695, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.

3. **Deposit: Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 8th day of April, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	Civil Action No. 09-0028-CV
vs.	
MARTIN B. ADA, Defendants.	NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on March 30, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in the following property: Lot No. 011 H 28, consisting of 650 square meters located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Located on the lot is a fully concrete, seven bedroom, one bathroom house with a porch and carport. House is approximately 15 years old, and in need of some repair. There are existing power and sewage hook-ups.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on **June 1, 2010**, at the hour of **10:00 am**, at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public and will be held in reserve.

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DATED this 8th day of April, 2010.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda
Thursday, May 6, 2010
6:00 PM, Zoning Conference Room, Joeten Building, Saipan

A. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. Adoption of Minutes

5. Communications

B. Reports

1. Chairman

2. Secretary

3. Treasurer

4. Administrator

5. Committees

6. Legal Counsel

C. Public Comments

D. Permits/ Applications/ Rezones: review and decide.

1. None

E. Old Business.

1. Proposed amendments to Saipan Zoning Law of 2008

a. Update on proposed amendments to the 2008 Saipan Zoning Law (Presentation by staff)

F. New Business.

1. Update on Zoning Permit Processing

2. Update on Zoning Enforcement Activities

3. Update on Junk Car Removal Program

4. Update on Board's Public Outreach Program

G. Executive (Closed) Session

H Miscellaneous: Other Matters, Announcements, Next Meeting, Adjourn.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact Therese Ogumoro, Acting Zoning Administrator, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chair, Zoning Board

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DCCA/HPO-078

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 20, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

“PROPOSED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION FOR JAPANESE DEFENSIVE COMPLEX, ROTA ISLAND, CNMI FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION”

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. PEDRO (ROY) C. SABLAN, JR. DIRECTOR OF HPO AT (670) 664-2120/25 OR BY FAX TO: (670) 664-2139 OR E-MAIL TO provsablan@cnmihpo.com NO LATER THAN **MAY 11, 2010. CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DPL-091

SUBMISSION: MAY 20, 2010 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

“OFFICE SPACE RENTAL ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCURE-
MENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO MR. OSCAR M. BABAUTA, ACTING SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS BY FAX TO (670) 234-3755. **NO LATER THAN MAY 11, 2010. CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D).

/s/ OSCAR M. BABAUTA
SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



Department of Commerce
CNMI ARRA Office

Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) GRANT

ROUND
2

Presentations of proposals by the following:



Life in Motion

**PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY
ACCESS NETWORK**



**UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII[®]**
MĀNOA

Live video teleconference
from Honolulu, Hawaii



**American Memorial Park
Visitors Center**

**April 29th, 2010
5pm – 7pm**

**These applicants will be evaluated by a panel of judges as
to their ability to meet the needs of the CNMI...stay tuned.**

We encourage everyone to attend!

All public comments need to be submitted via e-mail to btop@cnmiarra.net
by Monday, May 3rd, 2010 by 11:30 am.

Live video
teleconference available
on Guam (UoG/Field House),
Tinian and Rota
(NMC Campuses)

Any questions/concerns: please contact Alfreda Camacho at (670) 664-3010

Business

BUSINESS BRIEFS

GOP blocks financial bill again, floats alternative

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Republicans, attacked for twice blocking legislation to rein in Wall Street, floated a partial alternative proposal Tuesday and said it could lead to election-year compromise on an issue that commands strong public support. The 20-page outline would prohibit the use of taxpayer funds to bail out failing financial giants of the future and impose federal regulation on many but not all trades of complex investments known as derivatives. It also calls for consumer protections that appear weaker than Democrats and the White House seek, and it would create new regulations on mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The outline surfaced shortly before Senate Republicans united for the second straight day to block action on White House-backed legislation designed to prevent any recurrence of the ills that led to the economic calamity of 2008. The 57-41 vote left the measure three shy of the 60 needed to advance.

UAL and US Airways 1Q losses smaller than expected

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—United Airlines and US Airways both reported much smaller quarterly losses on Tuesday, helped by returning business travelers and higher fares. They were the last of the big airlines to report first-quarter results. All of the major U.S. carriers, except Southwest, lost money. But most saw revenue improve in a way that suggests airlines are making a strong exit from last year's sharp travel downturn. That was especially true at United parent UAL Corp. Its planes were fuller and it collected more money from passengers—12.2 percent more for each mile they flew compared with a year ago.

Europe debt crisis spreads to Portugal

ATHENS (AP)—Greece was pushed to the brink of a financial abyss and started dragging another eurozone country—Portugal—down with it Tuesday, fueling fears of a continent-wide debt meltdown.

Stocks around the world tanked when ratings agency Standard & Poor's downgraded Greek bonds to junk status and downgraded Portuguese bonds two notches, showing investors that Greece's financial contagion is spreading.

Major European exchanges fell more than 2.5 percent, and on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average finished down more than 200 points. The euro slid more than 1 percent to nearly an eight-month low.

Senate showdown puts Goldman's defense on display

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Senate showdown has put Goldman Sachs' defense of its conduct in the run-up to the financial crisis on display before indignant lawmakers and a national audience. Democrats hope it also builds momentum for legislation, now before the Senate, to tighten regulation of the nation's financial system.

Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein testily told skeptical senators at a hearing Tuesday that clients who bought subprime mortgage securities from the Wall Street powerhouse in 2006 and 2007 came looking for risk "and that's what they got."

"We have the makings of a market crisis here," said Neil Mackinnon, global macro strategist at VTB Capital.

Greece is struggling with massive debt, and with prospects for economic growth weak it could end up in default. Its 15 eurozone partners and the International Monetary Fund have tried to calm the markets with a euro45 billion rescue package, but it hasn't worked.

Standard & Poor's warned that holders of Greek debt could take large losses in any restructuring, but a greater worry is that Greece's debt crisis is mushrooming to other debt-laden members of the eurozone.

One bailout can be dealt with but two will be stretching it, and there

are fears that other weak economies could be pulled down in the Greek spiral—including Europe's fifth-largest, Spain. Can Germany, Europe's effective paymaster, continue to bail out the weaker members of the eurozone?

The crisis threatens to undermine the euro and make it harder and more expensive for all eurozone governments to borrow money.

It has also disrupted cooperation between eurozone governments, with Germany resisting the idea of bailing out Greece unless strict conditions are met.

Many investors think Greece will have enough money to avoid default in the coming weeks, but the future is cloudier.

Goldman's CEO and other executives were lambasted by senators for "unbridled greed" in an often-electric showdown between Wall Street and Congress—with expletives frequently undeleted. Unrepentant, five present and two former Goldman executives unflinchingly stood by their conduct before the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which had probed Goldman's activities for 18 months.

"Unfortunately, the housing market went south very quickly," Blankfein told the panel. "So people lost money in it."

Gulf's businesses wait as oil creeps toward the coast

BILOXI, Miss. (AP)—This time, it's not a hurricane that threatens to wreck their livelihoods—it's a blob of black ooze slowly making its way toward the Gulf Coast.

Hotel owners, fishermen and restaurateurs are keeping anxious watch as an oil slick spreads from a wrecked drilling rig site like a giant filthy ink blot. Forecasters say it could wash ashore within days near delicate wetlands, oyster beds and pristine white beaches.

Crews have not been able to stop thousands of barrels of oil from spewing out of the sea floor since an April 20 explosion destroyed the Deepwater Horizon, which was drilling 50 miles off the Louisiana coast. Eleven workers are missing and presumed dead, and the cause of the explosion has not been determined.

Louis Skrmetta, 54, runs a company called Ship Island Excursions that takes tourists to the Gulf Islands National Seashore, where white-sand beaches and green water create an idyllic landscape.

"This is the worst possible thing that could happen to the Mississippi Gulf Coast," he said. "It will wipe out the oyster industry. Shrimping wouldn't recover for years. It would kill family tourism. That's our livelihood."



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-030

"ROOF COATING OF TINIAN SCHOOLS"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Roof Coating of Tinian Elementary and Tinian High School**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on April 22, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee \$33.95.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 11, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Tinian High School Library on Tinian. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 13, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-030, and submitted with one original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:00 a.m., local time, May 19, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-031

"ROOF COATING OF GTC, TANAPAG, GARAPAN, OLEAI ELEMENTARY AND MARIANAS HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Roof Coating of GTC, Tanapag, Garapan, Oleai Elementary and Marianas High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on April 22, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee \$34.55.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 12, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 14, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-031, and submitted with one original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 11:00 a.m., local time, May 20, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer

Nation

ACROSS THE NATION

AG: Court challenge possible on immigration law

WASHINGTON (AP)—Attorney General Eric Holder said Tuesday that the federal government may go to court to challenge Arizona's new law which makes it a state crime to be in the United States illegally. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano also voiced reservations about the new state law, saying it could siphon federal money and staff from hunting down dangerous immigrants. The critical comments by the nation's top law enforcement official and the Cabinet secretary responsible for enforcing immigration laws came four days after Arizona's governor signed a law designed to crack down on illegal aliens. Arizona's new law is, "I fear, subject to potential abuse," Holder told a news conference. The law allows police to question anyone about their immigration status if they have reason to suspect they are in the country illegally, and makes it a state crime if they are. "I am very concerned about the wedge that it could draw between communities that law enforcement is supposed to serve and those of us in law enforcement," Holder added.

Reid: Senate to act on climate before immigration

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said Tuesday he is willing to bring up climate change legislation ahead of an immigration bill, the first step toward resolving a dispute with Senate Republicans that threatened to derail a bipartisan effort months in the making. Reid said the long-delayed climate bill "is much further down the road in terms of a product" than the immigration measure, which remains unwritten. "The energy bill is ready. We will move to that more quickly than a bill we don't have," Reid, D-Nev., told reporters. "I don't have an immigration bill." Reid's comments

were intended to help resolve a dispute that emerged last weekend when Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., threatened to withhold support for the climate bill if Reid pushes ahead first with an immigration bill.

Source: Former Air Force member claims explosives

BANGOR, Maine (AP)—A former member of the U.S. Air Force on a flight from Paris to Atlanta claimed he had explosives in his luggage and a fake passport, forcing federal air marshals to intervene and the plane to be diverted to Maine on Tuesday, U.S. officials said. The officials, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters and because the investigation was ongoing, said the man was a former member of the active duty Air Force until last year. The officials would not say what rank he held or the type of discharge he received. The man claimed he had a fake passport, but the passport was authentic, they said. There were 235 passengers and 13 crew aboard Delta Air Lines Flight 273.

Texas executes man who murdered illegal immigrant

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A Texas inmate was executed Tuesday evening for fatally stabbing an illegal immigrant during an attempted robbery a dozen years ago. Samuel Bustamante, 40, said nothing, shaking his head when asked by the warden if he wanted to make a final statement. He took several nearly inaudible breaths as the lethal drugs took effect, then slipped into unconsciousness as four female friends he invited to the death chamber watched. Eight minutes later, at 6:22 p.m. CDT, he was pronounced dead, making him the seventh prisoner executed this year in the nation's most active death penalty state. No friends or relatives of his victim were present.



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INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-032

"ROOF COATING OF DANDAN, SAN VICENTE, KAGMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, CHACHA JR. HIGH AND KAGMAN HIGH SCHOOL"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Roof Coating of Dandan, San Vicente, Kagman Elementary Schools, Chacha Jr. High and Kagman High School** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on April 22, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee \$34.25.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 12, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 14, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-032, and submitted with one original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 9:00 a.m., local time, May 20, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer



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State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 10-033

"ROOF COATING OF WSR ELEMENTARY, HOPWOOD JR. HIGH, SAN ANTONIO ELEMENTARY, KOBLERVILLE ELEMENTARY, AND SAIPAN SOUTHERN HIGH"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Roof Coating of WSR, Hopwood Jr. High, San Antonio Elementary, Koblerville Elementary, and Saipan Southern High** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on April 22, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee \$34.25.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 12, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 14, 2010, 4:30 p.m.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-033, and submitted with one original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 20, 2010 at which time the bids will be publicly open in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement & Supply Officer



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BID PSS-IFB-10-035

"PAINTING OF TINIAN SCHOOLS"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting sealed bids for the **Painting of Tinian Elementary and Tinian High School**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The scope of work and project package is available beginning on April 29, 2010 at Pacific Quick Print for a fee of \$34.10.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Public School Procurement Rules and Regulations, as revised through June 5, 1998, and in accordance with ARRA Section 1605, "BUY AMERICAN REQUIREMENTS". Bidding Procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 60-40-205 of the PSS Regulations, "Competitive Sealed Bidding".

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference on May 18, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Tinian High School Library on Tinian. Bids will not be accepted from any bidder who failed to attend this pre-bid conference. Questions may be submitted in writing to Fax No. (670) 323-1075 or emailed to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia at lizb@emchen.com no later than May 20, 2010, 4:30 p.m..

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked, IFB-10-035, and submitted with one original and five (5) copies to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 25, 2010 at which time all bids will be publicly opened in the PSS Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Building. Any bids submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

This project is funded under the AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) with "Buy America" Provisions.

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Asia

Thai protesters test rally ban

BANGKOK (AP)—Protesters dared the military to stop them as they headed Wednesday to rally in a Bangkok suburb, raising concerns of more clashes after government warnings that patience was running out in a seven-week standoff that has paralyzed parts of the capital.

The Red Shirt protesters, who are demanding the dissolution of Parliament, sent hundreds of supporters in pickup trucks and on motorbikes to drum up support at an outdoor market north of the capital. The government has repeatedly said it will not tolerate protests beyond the commercial shopping zone where the Red Shirts have been entrenched for weeks.

“We are going to send (protesters) out of the rally site,” a Red Shirt leader, Nattawut Saikua, said. “If the military thinks it is necessary to use force to block us, it’s all right.” He added: “We are not afraid.”

On Tuesday, protesters forced a four-hour shutdown of Bangkok’s busy elevated train system during the morning rush hour. It caused commuter chaos and rattled Thais after bloody grenade attacks last week at a Skytrain station left one dead and more than 80 wounded.

At least 26 people have been



Trouble in Thailand

The five-year political crisis in Thailand could develop into a bloody civil conflict as no side seems willing to compromise.

At a glance

Population 66 million (2009 estimate); 75 percent Thai; 14 percent Chinese; 11 percent other

GDP per person \$8,100; primarily industry and services

Government Constitutional monarchy

Brief history Kingdom known as Siam until 1939; bloodless revolution led to constitutional monarchy in 1932; never taken over by a European power

Yellow Shirts vs. Red Shirts

2006 Yellow Shirts protest to oust Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra

December 2006 Thaksin ousted in coup

December 2007 Thaksin allies win elections

September 2008 Yellow Shirts occupy buildings, clash with pro-Thaksin Red Shirts

Key events in current conflict

November 2008 Yellow Shirts occupy airports

December 2008 Thaksin-allied government fails, Abhisit Vejjajiva forms government

April 2009 Red Shirts protest ASEAN summit, clash with Yellow Shirts

March 2010 Red Shirts begin trying to overthrow government

Source: CIA World Factbook, BBC, ESRI

Graphic: Pat Carr

© 2010 MCT

killed and nearly 1,000 wounded since protesters known as the Red Shirts began occupying parts of Bangkok in mid-March, closing down five-star hotels and shopping malls and devastating the country’s vital tourism industry.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva has repeatedly said he hopes to resolve the conflict peacefully but has yet to outline a clear

plan on how to end the crisis after calling off negotiations with the protesters, who consider the government illegitimate and want Parliament disbanded.

“We recognize that as every day passes by, the people of Thailand suffer, the country suffers, but we want to make sure that there is rule of law,” Abhisit told CNN.

China lifts travel ban against people with HIV

BEIJING (AP)—China has scrapped a 20-year travel ban that barred people with HIV and AIDS from entering the country, just days ahead of the opening of the Shanghai Expo, which hopes to welcome millions of overseas visitors.

The decision announced by China’s Cabinet, the State Council, follows similar moves by the United States and South Korea to eliminate travel restrictions for people with the HIV virus. Both lifted their bans on visitors with HIV on Jan. 1.

China’s ban had been launched based on “limited knowledge” of HIV at the time and had proven inconvenient for the country when hosting international events, the official Xinhua News Agency quoted the Cabinet as saying. The Shanghai Expo begins Saturday and runs for six months.

The State Council said in a statement posted to its website late Tuesday that the government passed amendments on April 19, revising the Border Quarantine Law as well

as China’s Law on Control of the Entry and Exit of Aliens. The changes were effective immediately.

The move also includes scrapping entry restrictions for people with leprosy and sexually transmitted diseases.

The State Council said that the government realized such restrictions had limited effect on preventing and controlling the spread of diseases in the country, according to Xinhua. The Cabinet did not immediately respond to faxed questions.

World

Noriega extradition to France angers abuse victims

PANAMA CITY (AP)—Relatives of people tortured and killed under former dictator Manuel Noriega are devastated at the prospect that he may serve out his days in a French prison instead of facing justice at home.

Most Panamanians, however, are increasingly indifferent to Noriega two decades after his dictatorship ended with a U.S.

invasion, and the Washington-friendly government has made only mild appeals for his return.

“I wanted Noriega to come

here and tell the truth and be condemned,” said Patria Portugal, whose father disappeared in 1970 when Noriega was chief of intelligence during the dictatorship of Gen. Omar Torrijos.

Noriega, who seized power in 1981 after Torrijos died in an unexplained aircraft crash, is one of eight people charged with the murder of Portugal’s father, a government oppo-

nent whose body was finally found 10 years ago buried in an old army barracks. The trial starts July 7.

Noriega has already been

convicted in absentia and sentenced to 60 years in prison on charges of embezzlement, corruption and murdering opponents during his eight-year rule. Panama has an outstanding request for his extradition.

After finishing a 20-year sentence in the United States for drug trafficking, Noriega was extradited to France this week to face money laundering charges. A French judge ordered him jailed Tuesday pending trial.

“We are losing hope with this,” Portugal said. “I don’t know what is more important for people: money laundering or justice for unresolved crimes against humanity.”



Noriega

Mexico issues travel alert over new Arizona law

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The Mexican government warned its citizens Tuesday to use extreme caution if visiting Arizona because of a tough new law that requires all immigrants and visitors to carry U.S.-issued documents or risk arrest.

Two top U.S. officials, meanwhile, criticized the measure and said it may face a legal challenge by federal authorities.

A Mexican government-affiliated agency that supports Mexicans living and working

in the United States called for boycotts of Tempe, Ariz.-based US Airways, the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Phoenix Suns until those organizations rebuke the law.

“We are making a strong call to the Arizona government to retract this regressive and racist law that’s impacting not only residents of Arizona, but people in all 50 states and in Mexico as well,” said Raul Murillo, who works with the Institute for Mexicans Abroad, an autonomous agency of

Mexico’s Foreign Ministry.

US Airways spokesman Jim Olson said “we have had absolutely no customers who have canceled fights” as a result of the controversy. Calls to the Diamondbacks and the Suns were not immediately returned.

The boycott demand came hours after Mexico’s Foreign Ministry issued its travel alert for Arizona, warning “that any Mexican citizen could be bothered and questioned for no other reason at any moment.”

Unpaid Somali soldiers desert to insurgency

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Hundreds of Somali soldiers trained with U.S. tax dollars have deserted because they are not being paid their \$100 monthly wage, and some have even joined the al-Qaida-linked militants they are supposed to be fighting, The Associated Press has learned.

The desertions raise fears that a new U.S.-backed ef-

fort beginning next month to build up Somalia’s army may only increase the ranks of the insurgency.

Somalia’s besieged U.N.-backed government holds only a few blocks of the Somali capital, Mogadishu, while Islamic insurgents control the rest of the city and most of the country. That turmoil—and the lawless East African nation’s

proximity to Yemen, where al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula is based—has fed fears that Somalia could be used to launch attacks on the West.

In an effort to rebuild the tattered Somali military, the United States helped fund a training program for nearly 1,000 soldiers in neighboring Djibouti last year, Western diplomats told the AP.

ASIAN BRIEFS

India arrests diplomat for spying for Pakistan

NEW DELHI (AP)—India is investigating a serious breach of security after arresting a female diplomat accused of spying for Pakistan while posted at the Indian Embassy in Islamabad, India’s foreign minister said Wednesday. Madhuri Gupta, 53, a second secretary at the embassy, was recalled to New Delhi and arrested at her home in the Indian capital. Foreign Minister S.M. Krishna told NDTV news channel that the charges against Gupta were serious and that the case was being investigated by the Home Affairs Ministry. The suspect is accused of passing information to Pakistani intelligence agencies, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Vishnu Prakash said.

Tokyo population tops 13 million for first time

TOKYO (AP)—The population of Japan’s capital—one of the biggest cities in the world—has surpassed 13 million for the first time in history, the Tokyo government said Wednesday. Tokyo

counted 13.01 million residents as of April 1, up 0.5 percent from the same month a year earlier, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government said. The latest figure contrasts with the overall demographic trend in Japan, which faces long lifespans, stubbornly low birth rates and a shrinking population. Japan’s total population peaked at 127.84 million in 2004, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

China executes man who killed 8 schoolchildren

BEIJING (AP)—China executed Wednesday a man who stabbed eight schoolchildren to death last month in attacks that shocked the country, state media reported. Zhang Minsheng, 41, was put to death in eastern Fujian province for the March 23 murders of eight children outside their elementary school as they waited with their parents for classes to start, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. During his trial earlier this month, Zhang admitted to killing the children because he had been upset after being jilted by a woman and treated badly by her wealthy family.

WORLD BRIEFS

Pilot error blamed for 2007 crash that killed 114

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—An investigative report released Wednesday blamed pilot error for the 2007 crash of Kenya Airways flight in Cameroon that killed all 114 people on board. The pilot of the Kenya Airways flight didn’t notice the plane was banking right and when he did he turned farther right, triggering a downward spiral, the report found. The crash of the Boeing 737-800 on May 5, 2007, occurred during a thunderstorm less than two minutes after take-off, but the report said weather did not likely cause the crash. Instead it blamed “spatial disorientation” by the pilot.

Lawmakers brawl in Ukraine over pro-Russia measure

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—The speaker of Ukraine’s parliament huddled under umbrellas as eggs rained down and smoke bombs filled the chamber with an acrid cloud. Then the lawmakers attacked each other, punching and brawling in the aisles. The chaos erupted Tuesday as parliament approved a treaty allowing Russia to extend the

lease on a naval base in a Ukrainian port on the Black Sea until 2042—a move bitterly opposed by pro-Western lawmakers. Ukraine would get cheap natural gas from Russia in exchange. Russia’s influence in Ukraine has surged since the February election victory of pro-Kremlin President Viktor Yanukovich, infuriating Ukrainians who resent Moscow’s influence and inflaming the violent passions that plague the politics of the former Soviet republic.

Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez takes to Twitter

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Hugo Chavez is starting to use Twitter to counter his opponents online, forcing a president who often talks for hours to sum up each thought in 140 characters or less. Chavez urged Venezuelans to watch his newly created account—chavezcandanga—after midnight Tuesday, saying “at that point is when I let loose.” His first tweet in Spanish popped up at 14 minutes after midnight: “Hey how’s it going? I appeared like I said I would: at midnight. I’m off to Brazil. And very happy to work for Venezuela. We will be victorious!!”

Environment



Volunteers from Rota, Tinian and Saipan join the 24th annual International Coastal Cleanup in September last year to comb local beaches and waterways collecting trash and recording the data in the largest volunteer effort of its kind. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Commonwealth was among the contributors to the Ocean Conservancy's newly released global report on the marine debris problem facing wildlife, economies and marine ecosystems.

The report summarizes the efforts of nearly 500,000 volunteers around the world who removed more than 7 million lbs of trash during the 24th annual International Coastal Cleanup in September. Volunteers from Rota, Tinian and Saipan joined these efforts to comb local beaches and waterways collecting trash and recording the data in the largest volunteer effort of its kind.

Volunteers removed and recorded 7.4 million lbs of trash in 108 countries and locations, 45 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. The report features Ocean Conservancy's annual Marine Debris Index the world's only country-by-country, state-by-state analysis of trash in our ocean and waterways. Trash Travels also shines a spotlight on the growing threat of marine debris one of our greatest global pollution problems.

OCEAN CONSERVANCY REPORT: Trash in our ocean has become one of the worst pollution problems we face

"Momentum is building. There is a growing understanding of the significant impact trash has on wildlife, the

economy and the productivity and resiliency of our ocean," said Vikki Spruill, president and CEO of Ocean Conser-

vancy. "The data generated by hundreds of thousands of dedicated volunteers around the world provide us with a

global snapshot of the trash in our ocean, but cleanups alone cannot solve the problem it's time to stop marine debris at

the source. From design to disposal, we all have a role to play: corporations can reduce packaging, governments can enact strong marine debris policies, and each of us can choose re-usable items, recycle when possible and put trash in its place."

"Eliminating the threat of marine debris will help improve the ocean's resilience. Our ocean is our life-support system, and when we trash our ocean we are trashing our own health and well-being," added Spruill.

Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup engages volunteer organizations and individuals to remove trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways; to identify the sources of debris; and to change policies and behaviors that cause marine debris in the first place. Visit www.oceanconservancy.org to download the report and to find out what you can do to make a difference - including signing up for the 25th International Coastal Cleanup to be held around the world on September 25th, 2010. (PR)

BY THE NUMBERS

The 2009 International Coastal Cleanup

■ Volunteers found 336 marine animals, including 138 birds, entangled in marine debris 120 of the animals were still alive and released. Fishing line and nets were some of the most dangerous items, trapping over 200 animals.

■ Volunteers found 512,517 cups, plates, forks, knives and spoons enough to provide a full set

of dinnerware to over 100,000 people.

■ Volunteers around the world covered 14,827 miles more than six times the length of the Mississippi river.

■ Volunteers found 58,881 bottles of oil/lube during the cleanup. This is the amount that would be used to change the oil in nearly 12,000 mid-sized cars.

DO YOUR PART

Eat local produce

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Nothing beats the taste of a tomato right off the vine or a ripe peach just picked from the tree. Fresh-from-the-farm fruits and vegetables always taste better and it's been proven that they're usually better for you. Produce that is transported long distances is often-times picked just before it's ripe to maximize shelf life. This means the produce hasn't reached its full maturity or its full nutritional value. Eating locally grown produce is not only more tasty and nutritious, it will also help you lower your eco-footprint by reducing the pollution created by the miles traveled to bring the produce from the farm to your table.

Of course, locally grown produce includes the vegetables you grow in your own garden. If you'd love to have

a garden but don't have the space or ample sunshine, seek out a community garden. There, you rent a small plot of land and tend to your own garden. Irrigation is often included in a community garden or at least they provide access to a water hose. You'll also get to meet other green thumbs that share your interest. Check with your local Cooperative Extension office for a list of available community gardens near you.

If you don't have the time or enthusiasm to tend a garden, you can by-pass the work and visit a farmers market. Many farmers markets offer only locally grown produce and you can often meet the farmer that grew it. Farmers markets are also a good source for organic produce that's been grown using little or no chemical fertilizer or pesticides. Remember to take



Eating locally grown produce is not only more tasty and nutritious, it will also help you lower your eco-footprint by reducing the pollution created by the miles traveled to bring the produce from the farm to your table. MCT

along a basket or reusable shopping bag so you can avoid taking home a bunch of plastic bags.

CSA or Community Supported Agriculture is another option that is gaining in popularity. CSAs deliver locally grown produce right to your doorstep or arrange central locations for pick-up. You pay a local farm at the beginning of the season and they provide just picked produce on a regular schedule throughout the growing season, usually once a week or every other week.

Buying locally grown produce helps support your local economy and it's a great-tasting way to Do Your Part.

Visit DoYourPart.com/columns for help locating a farmer's market or CSA near you. Terri Bennett is an Earth scientist, syndicated columnist and mom. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com. Get more every day green living tips at www.DoYourPart.com.

Life & Style

Ailing Bret Michaels diagnosed with another malady

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An already ailing Bret Michaels has been diagnosed with another medical malady. After suffering a brain hemorrhage last week, the audacious 47-year-old glam-rock reality TV star has developed a side effect that causes seizures, according to a statement posted Tuesday on the former Poison frontman's website.

The condition, called hyponatremia, stems from a lack of sodium. The statement did not indicate if Michaels had actually suffered any seizures.

Michaels was conscious and in critical but stable condition in the intensive care unit of an undisclosed hospital.



Michaels

The statement said he was remaining positive and responding well to tests and treatments.

"Even though today was a minor setback, doctors remain hopeful for a full recovery and plan to release more specific information next Monday," it said.

Michaels, a contestant on "The Celebrity Apprentice," suffered a subarachnoid hemorrhage, which causes bleeding in

the fluid-filled spaces around the base of the brain. He was rushed to the hospital on Friday with a severe headache.

"Doctors state Michaels is very lucky as his condition could have been fatal," according to the statement, which was also provided by Michaels' New York-based publicist Joann Mignano.

"With further testing and rehabilitation, they are hopeful that Bret will gradually improve as the blood surrounding the brain dissolves and is reabsorbed into his system, which can be a very painful recovery and take several weeks to months," the statement said.

Bachelor bounced from the 'Dancing'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jake Pavelka got misty-eyed when he learned he was leaving "Dancing With the Stars."

"The Bachelor" star was eliminated from "Dancing" Tuesday. His eyes filled with tears as he thanked his professional partner, Chelsie Hightower.

"You are one of my best friends," he told her. "I have loved every second of this. I love you."

He also thanked his partner "for being so great to my beautiful fiancée Vienna," to whom he proposed during the finale of "The Bachelor." She sat in the front row of the audience throughout Pavelka's run on the show.

"I am so unbelievably thankful that I had an opportunity to be part of this cast," he said Tuesday. "This is the coolest thing. I can't imagine what in life could top something like 'Dancing With the Stars.'"

The 32-year-old pilot-turned-reality star came into the results show in last place, earning 21 points out of 30 for a samba that judges said lacked rhythm. He and Hightower also placed last during the swing-dance marathon on Monday's episode.

Judges' scores are combined with viewer votes to determine which celebrity is ousted each week.

Tuesday's episode also featured a performance by Melissa Etheridge, who played the title track from her new album, "Fearless Love," and her Grammy-winning hit, "Come To My Window."

Reality star Kate Gosselin, astronaut Buzz Aldrin and actors Shannen Doherty and Aiden



In this publicity image released by ABC, Jake Pavelka, left, and his partner Chelsie Hightower perform on the celebrity dance competition series, "Dancing with the Stars," on Monday, April 26, 2010 in Los Angeles.

Turner were eliminated on previous episodes of the ABC dance-off.

Marilyn Monroe writings to be released this fall

NEW YORK (AP)—Musings about life, literature and other rarely seen writings by Marilyn Monroe will be published this fall. Farrar, Straus & Giroux announced Tuesday that "Fragments" would come out in October. Editor Courtney Hodell said the book would include poems, photographs, reflections on third husband Arthur Miller and other men in Monroe's life, and references to works by Samuel Beckett, James Joyce and numerous other authors.

"I think the book will show that she was a really thoughtful person with a real interior life," Hodell said. "She was a great reader and someone with real writing flair. There are frag-

ments of poetry that are really quite beautiful, lines that stop you in your tracks."

The book features a long essay about Monroe's first husband, James Dougherty; notes about acting and the roles she was working on; lists of resolutions and a letter to acting coach Lee Strasberg.

Monroe wrote on everything from spiral bound notebooks to stationery from the Waldorf Astoria.

The writings date from 1943, when Monroe was a teenager, to near the end of her life. Monroe was found dead in her Los An-

geles home in 1962 at age 36, her death ruled a probable suicide, although theories of murder have proliferated.

Hodell said there were passages by Monroe that "make her seem suicidal," but declined to say what years the passages were written.

Hodell also declined to say whether Monroe referred to Joe DiMaggio, her second of three husbands, or President John F. Kennedy, with whom she was widely rumored to have had an affair. But Hodell did say that "there's stuff about all of her relationships here."



Monroe

'Peanuts' gang sold to Joe Boxer owner for \$175M

NEW YORK (AP)—You've got a new owner, Charlie Brown.

Newspaper publisher E.W. Scripps Co. is selling licensing rights for Snoopy, Charlie Brown and the rest of the "Peanuts" gang to Iconix Brand Group Inc., the licensing company that owns Joe Boxer and London Fog.

The family of the late "Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz will also own part of the business too, giving it more control of and money from the comic strip's legacy.

Heirs say the deal announced Tuesday for the 60-year-old comic strip is what the artist would have wanted. Schulz worked for decades to win back the rights to his work, which



In this image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment, Linus, center, is shown with Charlie Brown and Lucy during a new animated webisode series for "The Peanuts".

many other artists like himself sold to appear in print.

Scripps will sell its licensing unit, which also represents characters such as Dilbert and Rag-

gedy Ann and Andy, to Iconix for \$175 million. The bulk of revenue generated by United Media Licensing comes from the "Peanuts" franchise.

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NOW SHOWING



The Losers

Friday	4:05	7:10	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:05	7:10
Sunday	1:30	4:05	7:10
Mon thru Thurs	4:05	7:10	

Zoe Saldana, Chris Evans
 Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

An explosive action tale of betrayal and revenge, "The Losers" centers around the members of an elite Special Forces unit sent to the Bolivian jungle on a search and destroy mission. But the team—Clay, Jensen, Roque, Pooch and Cougar—soon to find that they have become the target of a deadly double cross, instigated from the inside by a powerful enemy known only as Max.



The Back-up Plan

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Mon thru Thurs	4:00	7:00	

Jennifer Lopez, Alex O'Loughlin
 Romance, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

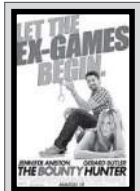
A single woman opts for artificial insemination after dating for years and failing to find the right guy, only to see the man of her dreams breeze into her life just as she learns she's pregnant. Zoe (Jennifer Lopez) is well aware that her biological clock is ticking, but she just can't find the type of guy she'd want to settle down and start a family with. Eventually, she makes the decision to become a single mother. The very same day that Zoe is artificially inseminated, however, she meets Stan (Alex O'Loughlin), a single charmer whom she thinks would make a great father.



The Last Song

Friday	4:20	7:05	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05
Mon thru Thurs	4:20	7:05	

Miley Cyrus, Liam Hemsworth
 Drama • Rated PG



The Bounty Hunter

Friday	4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Mon thru Thurs	4:15	7:15	

Jennifer Aniston, Gerald Butler
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



Kick-Ass

Friday	4:30	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:25
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:25
Mon thru Thurs	4:30	7:25	

Aaron Johnson, Nicolas Cage
 Action • Rated R

Synopsis

Mark Millar's violent comic tale of wannabe superheroes is adapted by writer/director Matthew Vaughn (Layer Cake) with this Marv Films production. Aaron Johnson stars as a teen who steps out of his house one day with a mask and a painted baseball bat and starts to fight crime even though he has no superpowers. Lyndsy Fonseca co-stars as the character's object of desire, with Nicolas Cage also appearing as an ex-cop whose hatred of a drug lord forces him to train his daughter to be a lethal vigilante.



Date Night

Friday	4:10	7:30	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30
Mon thru Thurs	4:10	7:30	

Steve Carrell, Tina Fey
 Comedy • Rated PG 13



Clash Of The Titans

Friday	4:25	7:20	9:45
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:20
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:20
Mon thru Thurs	4:25	7:20	

Sam Worthington, Liam Neeson
 Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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Teen star's mom knocked down in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Hundreds of frenzied teenagers mobbed pop star Justin Bieber as he arrived in New Zealand, knocking down his mother and stealing his hat as he was rushed through the airport to escape the fans.

The heartthrob Canadian singer tweeted his 2.1 million fans Wednesday to report: "Finally got to New Zealand last night. The airport was crazy. Not happy that someone stole my hat and knocked down my mama. Come on people."

The star's mother, Pattie Mallette, tweeted that she was "OK" after being pushed over by rampaging fans at Auckland Airport.

"Thanks for all ur support!! I'm ok thank you!!!," she wrote.

He earlier told fans that he wanted to sign autographs and



In this Monday, April 5, 2010 file photo Canadian pop star Justin Bieber performs at the annual White House Easter Egg Roll in Washington, hosted by President Barack Obama.

AP

have pictures taken. But police and security had to shut the opportunity down because fans were pushing.

The frenzy followed similar scenes in Sydney, Australia, earlier in the week, where police

canceled a Bieber concert after surging crowds crushed some fans. The most serious injury was a fractured kneecap.

A similar situation occurred at a mall in Long Island, New York, in November. Bieber's

free concert was canceled at the 11th hour when hundreds of fans stampeded after a reported sighting of the teen star.

In New Zealand, a mob of mainly teen girls screamed their welcome and swarmed toward Bieber, 16, at the airport. Escorted by security, police and minders, Bieber quickly left the airport out a side door.

A waiting black SUV whisked him away from the frenzied crowd, leaving some sobbing with disappointment.

After Bieber's departure, teen Tory Shaffett said she was having trouble breathing.

"Oh my god, he was so amazing and beautiful. I can't believe I saw him," she told reporters.

Bieber bungie jumped off Auckland Harbor Bridge on Wednesday and posted footage on his Twitter account.

Sister fears inheritance may doom drug-addicted brother

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My brother is a lifelong drug addict who has spent the last two decades in and out of jail. He rarely works and has no permanent residence, finding shelter instead with various friends, girlfriends and sometimes sleeping in his broken-down vehicle. When he calls me, it's always with some creative story and a request to send him money. The money I have sent over the years has gone to pay for his new drug fix, not to resolve whatever problem his sob story was about.



Dear Abby

Recently, our grandmother died and she left each of us some money. As her executor, I am responsible for making sure my brother gets his share. While I want him to benefit from this modest inheritance, I'm afraid he will use it to buy drugs—possibly enough drugs to harm himself, if unintentionally. Obviously, this is not what our grandmother would have wanted. How can I make sure this money goes to help, and not further enable, my drug-addicted sibling?

CONFLICTED SIS IN MARYLAND

DEAR CONFLICTED: Consult an attorney, preferably one who has experience with wills and trusts, and see if some arrangement can be made that ensures your brother has a roof over his head and won't starve. It may be possible that something can be worked out so his necessities would be paid for him, without his actually getting his hands on the money.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have been left confused and bitter over the loss of my best friend, "Sally." I expected to go to her children's weddings and be there for the birth of her grandchildren.

Sally had an affair, which I knew about. When her husband, "John," found out, he called me asking why I didn't tell him. After that horrible phone call, during which I lied to protect Sally, I never heard from them again.

Had I known this would happen I would have told John the truth. Instead of leaving her husband, Sally gave up her friendship with me. What did I do wrong? Should I be punished for listening to her? What would you advise your readers to do when someone starts telling them about an affair they're having?

THROWN UNDER THE BUS, BELLEVUE, WASH.

DEAR UNDER THE BUS: What you did "wrong" was allow yourself to be dragged into that mess as a co-conspirator. Silence implies agreement. Once John realized you knew all about her affair and lied, you became as guilty in his eyes as Sally and her lover. My advice to readers about what to do when someone starts telling them about an affair? Stay out of the line of fire by telling the person you don't want to hear it.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Like many parents, my husband and I would like our three children to read more. And they, like many children, would prefer to watch more television. We arrived at a compromise, and I would like to share it with your readers.

Many television shows are also available with closed captioning. For those who don't know what closed captioning is—it is a service available on most TVs that shows what is being broadcast via audio. We mute the television and have the children read the words instead of listening. It works great! Their reading skills have soared, and I have noticed they are now reading more books than they used to. In addition, I really enjoy the quiet time while we're watching the TV.

Please pass this strategy on. Some of our friends are also doing it and feel it has helped their children, too.

PROUD PARENTS

DEAR PROUD PARENTS: I'm pleased to spread the word. Closed captioning, which was originally intended for use by people with hearing disabilities, can also be very helpful for individuals who are learning English as a second language.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Shania Twain brings out the best in 'Idol' singers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Not so fast, Crystal Bowersox.

The other "American Idol" finalists rose to the occasion Tuesday during an evening of Shania Twain tunes on the Fox singing contest. After weeks of unabashed praise, the show's judges weren't so overwhelmed with the folksy rendition of "No One Needs To Know" from the usually captivating 24-year-old musician from Toledo, Ohio. They still kinda liked it though.

"It's kind of impossible for you not to be good," judge Kara DioGuardi said.

Aaron Kelly, the sheepish 17-year-old high school student from Sonestown, Pa., won back the judges with his booming take on mentor Twain's "You've Got a Way," which included changing the lyrics from "the way we make love" to "the way you show love." Simon Cowell said the passionate performance made Kelly seem like a "different artist" after weeks of ho-hum endeavors.

"Tomorrow's gonna be real tough," Ellen DeGeneres declared after Kelly performed.

The other male singers also had no problem nailing Twain's tunes, including 24-year-old paint sales clerk Lee Dewyze of Mount Prospect, Ill., with an edgy "Still the One," 26-year-old personal trainer Michael Lynche of Queens, N.Y., with an emotional "It Only Hurts When I'm Breathing" and 27-year-old musician Casey James of Fort Worth, Texas, with a raw "Don't!"

"This could be a great thing in your wheelhouse," Randy Jackson informed James.

Siobhan Magnus closed the show by strutting across the stage and through the audience while crooning "Any Man of Mine." Jackson later told the 20-year-old glass-blower from Marstons Mills, Mass., that he loved everything about it. Magnus ended the upbeat performance with one of her signature howls, which Cowell decided sounded like Magnus was "giving birth up there."

Another finalist will get the boot Wednesday, leaving five singers in the competition.

NBC plans special on prince's environmentalism

NEW YORK (AP)—Britain's Prince Charles will be featured on NBC later this year in a film about his environmental work.

The network said Tuesday it will show "Harmony," a movie about the prince and his view that people have lost the understanding of how to live in harmony with the natural world. It features business and environmental leaders working for a better balance.

Paul Telegdy, head of alternative programming at NBC, said

Prince Charles was mocked as the "tree-hugging prince" when he first started talking about many of these issues. Telegdy knows—he's a Brit who worked for the BBC.

"I always thought of him as one of the leading environmental activists on the planet," he said.

The film also includes clips from an interview Prince Charles did about the environment in 1988 with future Nobel Prize winner Al Gore.

The special will air in November, part of NBC Univer-

sal's fourth annual week of programming promoting green lifestyles.

NBC Universal executive Lauren Zalaznick said a week of programs promoting healthy lifestyles will launch June 21. They include a healthy food version of "Top Chef" on Bravo, a "Be Well, Be Happy" series on NBC News programs and details about health problems faced by Hispanics that will air on the Telemundo network.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

'Seinfeld' actor Alexander strikes bicyclist in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police say "Seinfeld" actor Jason Alexander won't be cited after striking a 14-year-old bicyclist while driving in Los Angeles. The boy suffered minor injuries. Los Angeles police spokeswoman Norma Eisenman says Alexander hit the bicyclist at about 7:15 a.m. Tuesday in the Mid-City area. Eisenman says the boy was in stable condition when he was taken to a hospital for examination. She had no additional details about the accident but said Alexander wasn't cited. Alexander played neurotic neighbor George Costanza on "Seinfeld." His publicist, Ron Hofmann, says Alexander acted responsibly by waiting for police and paramedics to arrive. He says Alexander is grateful that the boy wasn't seriously hurt.

Jackson estate wins injunction against Website

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's estate has won a preliminary injunction against a group using the name of the superstar's former charitable group. U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee on Monday ordered the current Heal the World Foundation to stop using Jackson's likeness and any trademarks that belong to his estate. Jackson's estate sued the owners of the foundation last year, claiming copyright infringement. They also claimed the site was improperly using Jackson's name and likeness to solicit donations. Jackson created a charity based on his hit song "Heal the World" in 1992. It was later dissolved. Gee's ruling said the new Web site, which has its references to Jackson, misled consumers.

'60 Minutes' to air Conan O'Brien interview Sunday

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Conan O'Brien will be on TV this weekend with his first post-"Tonight Show" interview. O'Brien talks with Steve Kroft on "60 Minutes," CBS said Tuesday. O'Brien's exit deal with NBC barred him from television appearances until May 1; the "60 Minutes" piece will air the day after. The interview was conducted last week in Los Angeles, according to a person with knowledge of it. The person, who lacked author-

ity to discuss the matter publicly, spoke on condition of anonymity. O'Brien, who left "Tonight" in January over a time-slot dispute with NBC, has agreed to host a late-night show on TBS later this year. He's now on a national comedy tour.

Ex-UCLA worker sentenced for reading celeb records

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former UCLA School of Medicine researcher has been sentenced to four months in federal prison after reading the confidential medical files of celebrities such as Drew Barrymore, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Tom Hanks. Huping Zhou also was fined \$2,000 at his sentencing Tuesday. He pleaded guilty in January to four misdemeanor counts of privacy violations. Prosecutors claimed that before and after his 2003 firing, Zhou accessed private records of celebrities and co-workers more than 300 times. Court filings said the breaches also involved the records of Sharon Osbourne, Barbara Walters, Elizabeth Banks, Leonardo DiCaprio and Anne Rice. Authorities say Zhou didn't try to sell the information. His attorney Edward Robinson says the Chinese immigrant didn't know it was a federal crime.

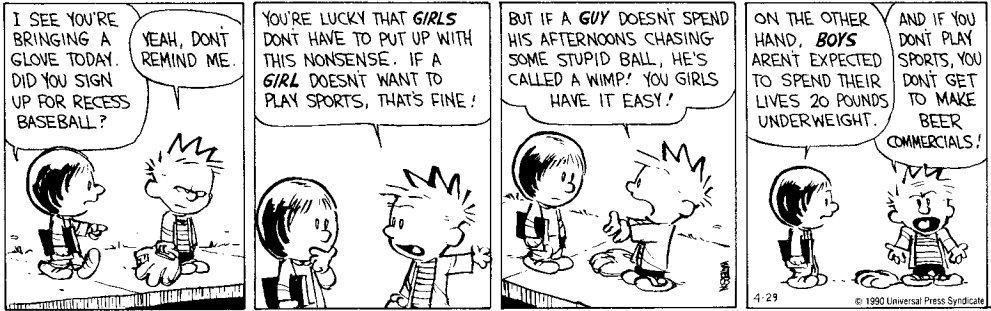
Guilty plea in cattle scam that bilked Sutherland

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP)—A California cattle salesman accused of stealing \$1.5 million from customers, including "24" actor Kiefer Sutherland, has pleaded guilty to theft and forgery charges. Michael Wayne Carr pleaded guilty Monday to three of 12 counts that included grand theft and forgery. Under terms of a plea deal, the 44-year-old San Joaquin County man faces as much as seven years in prison and will be ordered to pay restitution when he's sentenced Nov. 1. Carr will be ordered to pay back \$956,000 to Sutherland and one of the actor's investing partners. He initially faced up to 18 years behind bars. Prosecutors say Carr had agreements to buy steers in Mexico for his customers and sell them for profit in the United States, but that there's no record of Carr ever buying those animals. They also say Carr sold steers that didn't belong to him.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



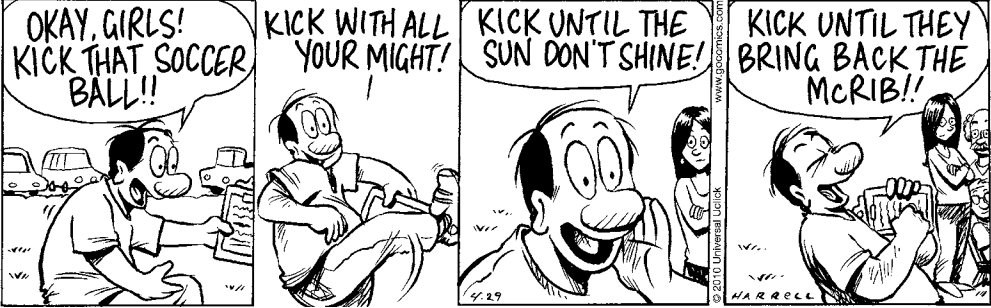
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



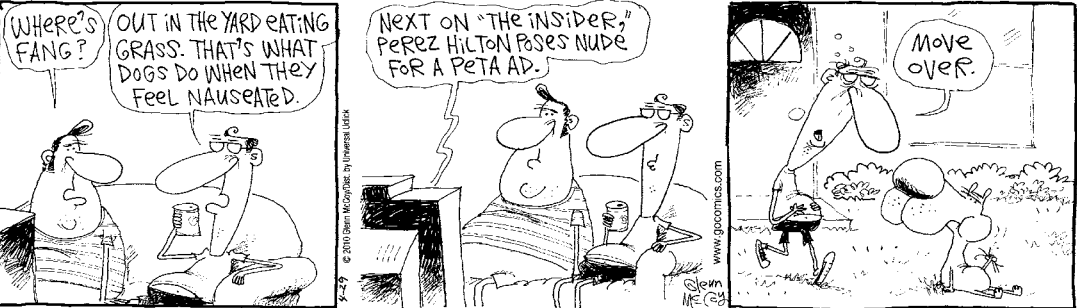
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Amor-phous mass

5 Soothing agent

9 Hoover, for one

12 Top-rated

13 Shaving cream additive

14 Supplement, with "out"

15 Romania's capital

17 Ever-green type

18 Trusty horses

19 Unac-companied

21 "And I should care ... why?"

22 Shade

24 Skirt feature

27 Coach Parseghian

28 Took off

31 Barbie's companion

32 Lustrous black

33 Vast expanse

34 Tittle

36 Fool

37 Charon's water

38 Put forth

40 "I see"

41 Tempt-ress

43 Obliter-ates

47 Praise in verse

48 Most gentle

51 "— Miser-ables"

52 "Holy mack-erel!"

53 Stage presenta-tion

54 Chow down

55 Actress Schneider

56 Turn on a pivot

DOWN

1 Talks and talks

2 Lum-mox

3 Never again?

4 Com-mand

5 Saloons

6 Harty quaff

7 —

8 Gold, silver or bronze

9 Kelley who played on "Star Trek"

10 Related

11 Un-adorned

16 Commo-tion

20 Chatroom chortling

22 Top of a wave

23 Feedbag fill

24 Schuss

25 Writer Buscaglia

26 Bankbook bonus

27 Not shut tight

29 Tina of "30 Rock"

30 Levy

35 Pink-slip

37 Musical notes

39 Go in

40 Raw rock

41 Dover fish

42 Concept

43 Vortex

44 Vend

45 Birthright barterer

46 Eyelid woe

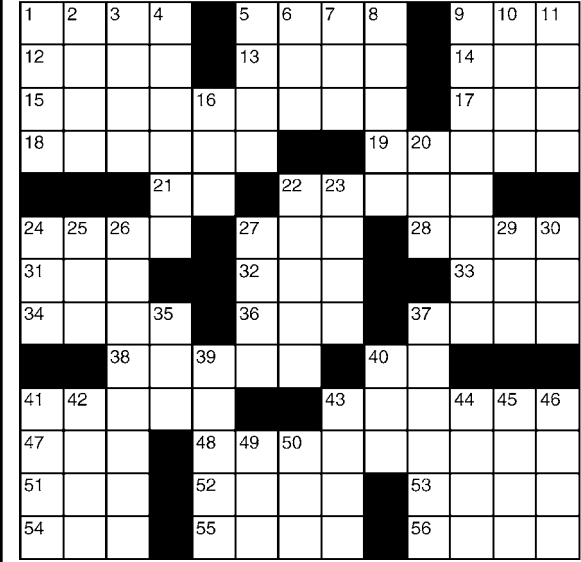
49 Swelled head

50 Historic war zone, for short

Solution time: 25 mins.

AWOL LEE SHAW
LADE IRA TECH
BROWN BAG RANI
STRIAE LOUVER
MAD SIR EDDY
MAD LAM DEBAR
PLOT LUX LANE
HIGHS MEW GYM
GRIT ROE
PAYOLA ORNATE
ALBA MIXED BAG
COAT POE OLLA
KEGS AND FEED

Yesterday's answer 4-29



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CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andre Agassi, 40; Uma Thurman, 40; Michelle Pfeiffer, 52; Jerry Seinfeld, 56

Happy Birthday: Work on partnerships and business prospects. Being upfront and honest about where you are and where you see yourself heading will eliminate uncertainties that you and the people you are dealing with might be harboring. This is the year to ask questions and to be vocal in order to finalize deals and get on with your life. Your numbers are 9, 14, 20, 26, 35, 39, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can negotiate, close a deal, make changes to your home or even make a move. As long as you do everything according to the rules, you will not face any setbacks. Use your energy wisely. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do your own thinking—as soon as you rely on someone else, you will be disappointed. A partnership will undergo some important changes and the outcome should put you in a good position. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A proposal offered can be good for you even if you feel it lacks excitement and substance. Right now, it's more important to make extra cash and clear any debts you've incurred. Take care of your responsibilities without being asked. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Control your own personal and professional situation. If you call the shots, speak up and do a great job, you will play an instrumental role in your future. Your influence will parlay into a chain reaction of support and new friendships. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Disagreements with the people you must deal with will cause you to rethink your plan of attack. Don't let your emotions lead you down a vulnerable path. You need a change of scenery and associating with new friends will ease your stress. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep things in perspective, especially with love and romance. Changes that take place may come as a surprise at first but will help you financially and emotionally. An opportunity is available if you initiate it. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't be afraid to try something new or to do things a little differently. Your diversity and creative input will grab attention and hold interest. The more flexible you are, the better you will do. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It's in your best interest to try new things and incorporate your knowledge and experience into what you are trying to create. The potential to get ahead is present as long as you don't overspend foolishly. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you send mixed signals, you are likely to get the same in return. Offer only what's yours to give, not an exaggerated version. Present truthfully who you are, what you have and what you are looking for. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): As long as you collect information and evaluate your position, you will not be disappointed in what you can achieve. Don't get

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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involved in someone else's problems or pick up the tab for someone else's mistake. Protect your money, your assets and your heart. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may want to make some adjustments to relationships that will cost you a friendship. A love interest is likely to become your stability by helping you come to terms with what you need to change in order to move onward and upward. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your money in a safe place or invest in a long-term investment. You can make money if you are smart and don't share how much you are worth with others. A love relationship will get better or worse, based on a financial choice. *****

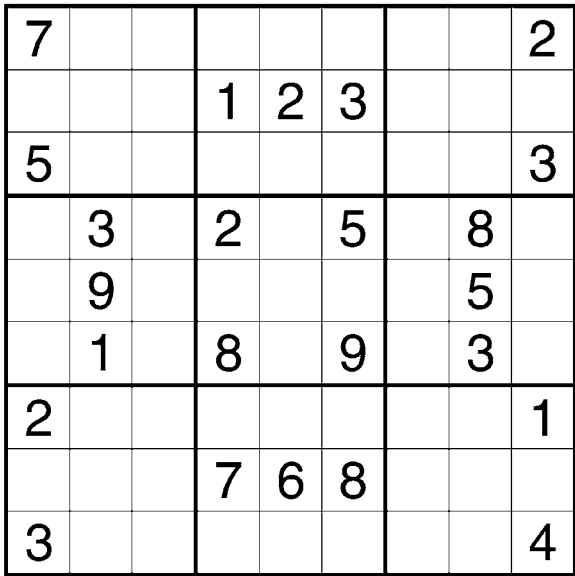
Birthday Baby: You are confident and immovable once you have made up your mind. You are a traditionalist and a Good Samaritan and don't tolerate uncouth behavior.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

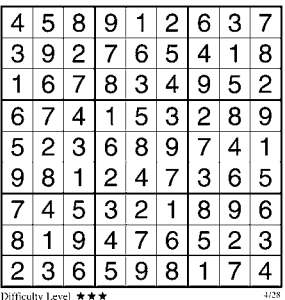


Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer



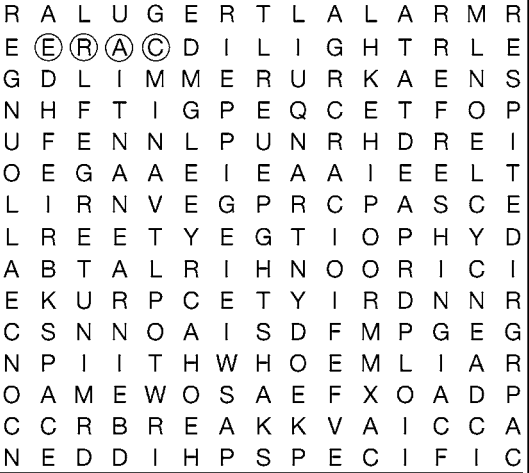
Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

PLANNING FOR SNOOZES Solution: 6 letters



© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 4/29

Airplane, Alarm, Arrange, Break, Brief, Calming, Care, Chair, Comfy, Conceal, Corner, Cycle, Drowsy, Fixed, Gap, Gentle, Heavy, Hidden, Lethargic, Light, Lounge, Mild, Minute, Napping, Need, Office, Period, Prepare, Quiet, Refreshing, Regular, Respite, Ride, Short, Sneak, Sofa, Sore, Space, Specific, Theater, Timing, Tired, Torpid, Tranquil, Vehicle, Wake, Wink

Yesterday's Answer: Musical

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• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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there's nothing Super about the Pittsburgh Steelers anymore.

28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009

25

Saipan Tribune Sports

Angamwas rules 4-person

NMIVA 1 for gras: Two-person vol sand to grass to Islands Volleyba Annual Reverse t nament at Navy H

28 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2009

Angamwas rules 4-person

Saipan Tribune

FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

TUESDAY DECEMBER 15, 2009

Fitial eyes Cepeda's re-appointment to NMC board. PAGI

DPH to ask for extension of emergency declaration. PAGI

\$1.35M earmarks for NMI now up for Obama's

egate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) now rests with President Obama, after the conference report on the omnibus Year 2010 spending bill cleared Fiscal Year 2010 Sunday.

Sablan's request for \$1.35 million to fund seven programs and projects is con tained in the Conference Report on Fiscal Year 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, a \$447-billion spending measure for several C agencies On a r Senate :

10 DAYS before Christi

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Butler, Haywood keep Mavs from being eliminated



DALLAS (AP)—Caron Butler saw a path to the basket and didn't care that Tim Duncan was in his way.

Butler drove right at San Antonio's big guy and tried jumping by him for a dunk. Duncan got a piece of the ball—but it caromed off the backboard and into the net anyway.

It was that kind of night for Butler and the Dallas Mavericks.

With Dallas facing elimination, Butler set an aggressive, energetic tone early and kept it up throughout a 103-81 victory over San Antonio on Tuesday night in Game 5 of their first-round series.

"That was fun," Mavs star Dirk Nowitzki said.

The Spurs still lead the series 3-2, giving the veteran club two more chances to get into the second round. Only eight teams have ever blown a 3-1 lead, and Game 6 is in San Antonio on Thursday night.

But Dallas looked like a different team with Butler and Brendan Haywood finally providing the toughness and athleticism the Mavs were seeking when they traded for them during the All-Star break.

Butler scored a career playoff-best 35 points and had 11 rebounds, while Haywood provided a strong inside presence at both ends in his first start of this postseason. He had eight points, eight rebounds and four blocks, and was a big reason Duncan scored just 11 points.

Duncan went to the bench for good shortly after that inadvertent tip-in, the Spurs essentially acknowledging this game was out of reach with 6:19 left in the third quarter. Dallas was soon up by 22, then 26.

"Now it's a series," said Butler, who just two games before was benched for the second half. "We have to go to San Antonio and bring the same energy and play with the same tenacity and disposition as we played with for 48 minutes here. We got to bring it some way, some how."

The Spurs were outplayed most of the first half, but trailed by only seven at halftime. Any hopes of turning things around with a throttling third quarter, like they did to win Game 4, vanished quickly with the Mavs scoring the first 10 points of the second half.

"Mostly it was the case of they came with the mental and physical toughness, and our starting group wasn't very good in either category," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

Despite losing three straight and looking ripe for a knockout, the Mavericks spent the last two days insisting everything was fine, that all they had to do was get to a few more loose balls



Dallas Mavericks forward Caron Butler (4) goes up for a shot against San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan, left, and Richard Jefferson (24) in the second half of a basketball game in the first round of the NBA playoffs, Tuesday, April 27, 2010 in Dallas.

and keep the Spurs from shooting close to 50 percent, as they had all series.

Sure enough, San Antonio made a series-worst 36 percent of its shots (only 27 percent in the second half), with Dallas grabbing 11 more rebounds and committing six fewer turnovers. The Spurs had three turnovers during the Mavs' game-breaking stretch early in the third quarter.

"We're upset at the way we approached the game," said San Antonio's Manu Ginobili, who scored seven points in 19 minutes. "It's something we'll learn from. I hope that's how we take Game 6, because we don't want to come here for a Game 7."

Tony Parker led San Antonio with 18 points, half coming during an 11-2 run at the end of the second quarter.

Dallas showed a new life from the start, inspired perhaps by Haywood starting instead of Erick Dampier, or just by their now-or-never situation.

San Antonio's only lead was 6-4, and the Mavs followed that with a 12-2 spurt that included opportunistic plays like Jason Kidd slapping a rebound right to Shawn Marion for an easy layup. They ran plays through Haywood, something unheard of when Dampier starts, and Butler was scoring inside, outside and in between.

Butler, Haywood and DeShawn Stevenson were acquired during the All-Star break in a deal that cost Dallas four players and forced owner Mark Cuban to ante up another \$30 million. It looked like a great investment when Dallas won 13 straight in February and

March, not so much with the Mavs on the brink of elimination and with Butler shooting 38 percent in the series.

"We need him to attack. That's basically what I told him—be aggressive at all times, we want you to shoot the ball and be a scorer for us," Nowitzki said.

Butler made 12-of-24 shots, including 3-of-8 3-pointers, and hit eight free throws. He was relentless, too, scoring 12 points in the first quarter, seven in the second and 11 in the third. Because Mavs coach Rick Carlisle refused to empty his bench until midway through the fourth, Butler got eight more points in the final period.

"I wasn't second guessing myself," Butler said. "If the shot was there, I was taking it."

Said Haywood: "I don't know what got into him. All I know is we're going to need it the next game."

Nowitzki gladly played the role of sidekick, putting up 15 points and nine rebounds. Jason Terry had 12 points, while Marion and Kidd each scored 10. Kidd also had seven assists and seven rebounds.

Haywood took only three shots, making one—which is one more than Dampier has this series—but he got to the line plenty. However, he made only 6-of-12 free throws.

"It's a different feel for the team," Haywood said of him being the starting center. "I think it helps us with what we want to do. ... If you're talking about getting out and running early in the game, unless you're starting (6-foot-8 forward) Eduardo Najera, you're starting me because I'm the more mobile of the two. So that's just one of the things that I think helps me and helps the team."

Dampier turned out to be Dallas' only player not to play. Najera wound up as the backup, but he won't be much longer if he keeps playing rough.

After getting ejected from Game 4 because of a flagrant-two foul on Ginobili, he was hit with a flagrant-one for a whack on Parker. With three flagrant "points" this postseason, his next will draw an automatic one-game suspension. His performance already has won over the fans, earning cries of "Ed-die! Ed-die!" in the second half.

"I'm not trying to hurt anybody out there," Najera said. "I'm just trying to

prove a point that we can do the same things they are doing."

Cavaliers 96, Bulls 94

At Cleveland, the Cleveland Cavaliers advanced to an NBA playoff date with Boston by beating Chicago in Game 5, clinching a 4-1 series victory.

Cleveland's LeBron James just missed a triple-double despite an apparently sore right elbow. James scored 19 points—16 in the second half—and added 10 rebounds and nine assists as the Cavs finally saddled the stubborn Bulls. Unable to lift his right arm, James was forced to shoot a free throw left-handed with 7.8 seconds left.

Antawn Jamison scored 25 points for Cleveland, which will face the Celtics, reuniting teams that don't like each other and who played a testy seven-game series in 2008. Game 1 is Saturday.

Derrick Rose scored 31 points and Luol Deng 26 for the Bulls, who had several shots roll in and out in the final minutes.

It could be the final game as Bulls coach for Vinny Del Negro.

Lakers 111, Thunder 87

At Los Angeles, the hosts bounced back from successive losses to thrash Oklahoma City and reclaim the initiative in the series, taking a 3-2 lead.

Pau Gasol had 25 points and 11 rebounds and Andrew Bynum added 21 points for the Lakers.

Kobe Bryant had 13 points and seven assists in three quarters of work as the defending NBA champions coolly shook off the Thunder's blowout win in Game 4 by comprehensively beating the postseason newcomers.

Game 6 is Friday in Oklahoma City, where the top-seeded Lakers will attempt to reach the Western Conference semifinals for the third straight year.

Kevin Durant scored 17 points and Russell Westbrook had 15 on combined 9-for-27 shooting for Oklahoma City, which never recovered after missing its first 13 shots.

Celtics 96, Heat 86

At Boston, Ray Allen scored 24 points, making five 3-pointers in the second half, to help Boston eliminate Miami in Game 5.

With star Dwyane Wade expected to become a free agent, it was the Heat's final game before what looms as an eventful summer in Miami.

Boston advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals thanks to 16 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds from Rajon Rondo. Paul Pierce scored 21 for the Celtics, who will play Cleveland.

Wade scored 31 points—far short of the franchise postseason-record 46 he scored Sunday in Game 4 in Miami to help the Heat stave off elimination.

Patriots release linebacker Adalius Thomas



BOSTON (AP)—The New England Patriots on Monday released former Pro Bowl linebacker Adalius Thomas, who joined the team as a high-profile free agent in 2007, but fell into disfavor with coach Bill Belichick last season.

The decision, announced by the team on Monday, leaves Thomas, 32, free to sign with any other NFL team. His agent, Bus Cook, did not immediately

return a phone message.

The linebacker signed a five-year, \$35 million deal with the Patriots after seven seasons with the Baltimore Ravens, where he played alongside Ray Lewis. He was voted to the Pro Bowl in 2003 and again in 2006.

Thomas had 14 1/2 sacks in his three seasons in New England. But his lowest total came in 2009, when he had only three sacks.

He was a healthy scratch for the

Patriots in two games last season, and was one of four players sent home by Belichick after arriving late for practice during a snowstorm in December.

While the three other players, wide receiver Randy Moss, defensive lineman Derrick Burgess and linebacker Gary Guyton largely remained quiet about the snowstorm incident, Thomas spoke out strongly the following day, saying he was "dumbfounded" and "can't figure out what Bill thinks or knows."

Thomas said he showed up nine minutes late for an 8 a.m. team meeting and had called ahead to say he was going to be late.

After being inactive in a 59-0 win over the Tennessee Titans in October, Thomas, asked by reporters why he was benched, said: "Ask Bill. He has all the answers."

Thomas said after the season he would not be surprised if he was released by the Patriots.

In his first season with the team, Thomas had 6 1/2 sacks along with 78 tackles. He also had two sacks in the 17-14 Super Bowl loss to the New York Giants, which spoiled the Patriots' bid for a perfect season.

The Patriots drafted linebacker Brandon Spikes in the second round last week and also selected his Florida teammate, Jermaine Cunningham, who played defensive end in college but may be converted to linebacker in the pros.

Thomas' departure leaves New England thin at outside linebacker, with Tully Banta-Cain the top returning veteran.

Rays match record April, beat A's



ST. PETERSBURG, Florida

(AP)—The Tampa Bay Rays matched a club record with 15 wins in April, reaching the mark with an 8-6 win over the Oakland Athletics in a clash of American League divisional leaders on Tuesday.

The AL East leaders improved baseball's best record to 15-5. The victory total equals the number they had in the opening month two years ago, when they made a surprising run to the World Series.

Pat Burrell's three-run homer off Ben Sheets (1-2) snapped a 4-4 tie in the third inning. Reid Brignac's shot leading off the bottom of the fourth gave the hosts an 8-4 lead.

Twins 2, Tigers 0

In Detroit, Francisco Liriano pitched eight scoreless innings to lead Minnesota over Detroit.

Liriano (3-0) struck out 10 and walked only one. He extended his scoreless innings streak to 23 in the series opener. He had his highest strikeout total since 2006, when he was en route to a 12-win season as a star rookie before injury intervened.

Red Sox 2, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Mike Lowell drove in the go-ahead run with a bases loaded walk as Boston beat Toronto.

It was Boston's fifth straight

victory in Toronto, and their fifth consecutive one-run game. The Red Sox are 4-1 in those games.

One night after the teams combined for 25 runs in battering 13 pitchers, starters Clay Buchholz and Shaun Marcum gave the bullpens a break.

Indians 9, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Austin Kearns homered for the second straight game and drove in five runs to power Cleveland over Los Angeles.

Kearns, who missed the final two months of last season with Washington after thumb surgery, has homered in consecutive games for the first time since 2007. His homer in the eighth inning was his first for a year.

Shin-Soo Choo had two RBI singles for the Indians.

Mariners 3, Royals 2

In Kansas City, pitcher Zack Greinke ended April winless in five starts after Kansas City's bullpen blew another lead in a loss to Seattle.

Greinke (0-2), last year's AL Cy Young winner, threw seven scoreless innings and left with a 2-0 lead only to watch the bullpen give it away.

The Mariners batted around in a three-run eighth off relievers Josh Rupe (0-1), Robinson Tejeda and Bruce Chen.

Rangers 4, White Sox 2

In Arlington, Matt Treanor had a solo homer and a two-run double

for his first extra-base hits of the season as Texas downed Chicago.

Treanor's big game came hours after the Rangers sent Jarrod Saltalamacchia and Taylor Teagarden, the two catchers on their season-opening roster, to the minors.

Former reliever C.J. Wilson (2-1) gave up two runs over six innings to take the win. He struck out Donny Lucy with the bases loaded to end the sixth.

Orioles 5, Yankees 4

In Baltimore, the hosts became the last team in the majors to record a home win, edging New York.

Cesar Izturis had three RBIs and Nolan Reimold singled in the tiebreaking run during a three-run sixth inning for the Orioles, who had lost their first six at Camden Yards.

Jorge Posada homered, and Robinson Cano and Nick Swisher each had three hits for the Yankees.

New York scored two unearned runs in the ninth after Izturis misplayed a two-out grounder, but Alex Rodriguez grounded into a fielder's choice with runners at the corners to end the game.

Padres 4, Marlins 1

In Miami, Jon Garland matched a career high with 10 strikeouts to lead the San Diego Padres to a win over the Florida Marlins.

Garland (2-2) allowed one run in six innings, tying the record

for strikeouts he set in 2003.

Adrian Gonzalez, Jerry Hairston and Nick Hundley had run-scoring hits for San Diego, and reliever Luke Gregerson struck out the first two batters he faced in the seventh to set a club record by retiring 26 in a row.

Giants 6, Phillies 2

In San Francisco, Aubrey Huff and Matt Downs hit solo homers in the second inning to set up San Francisco's win over Philadelphia.

The loss knocked the Phillies out of first place in the NL East and they are a half-game behind New York Mets, out of at least a share of the division lead for the first time this season with their second straight series loss.

Edgar Renteria and Pablo Sandoval hit consecutive RBI singles in both the fifth and seventh innings, and Renteria finished with three hits. Huff's homer was his first fences-clearing clout of the year after an earlier inside-the-park homer.

Nationals 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Livan Hernandez pitched six-hit ball into the eighth inning, steering Washington past Chicago.

The Nationals' 11-10 record matches their best start since 2005.

Washington's Ian Desmond delivered two RBI singles and Cristian Guzman added a run-scoring triple to back another dominant

outing by Hernandez (3-1).

Cardinals 5, Braves 4

In St. Louis, Chris Carpenter won on his 35th birthday to give St. Louis a tight victory over Atlanta.

The Braves have lost seven straight in their worst losing streak for four years.

Carpenter (3-0) allowed three hits in six innings.

Atlanta's Derek Lowe (3-2) retired the first 10 batters and lasted until Yadier Molina's two-run single put the Cardinals ahead 4-2 during a four-run sixth inning.

Rockies 12, Diamondbacks 1

In Denver, Colorado pitcher Ubaldo Jimenez extended his scoreless streak to 22 1-3 innings with six shutout innings in the win over Arizona.

Jimenez (5-0) has the longest scoreless streak in franchise history by a starter. The previous record was 20, jointly held by Denny Neagle and Franklin Morales. He has not allowed a run in his past three outings.

He struck out six, walked just two and allowed two hits in six innings. His ERA for the season is 0.79.

Mets 4, Dodgers 0, 1st game

Mets 10, Dodgers 5, 2nd game

In New York, the hosts extended their winning streak to six games, doing a double on Los Angeles for the first time since 1971.

In the opener, Jason Bay hit his first home run for the Mets and

Luis Castillo hit a two-run single.

New York starter Santana (3-1) tossed six innings of four-hit ball in the Mets' second consecutive shutout.

In the late game, David Wright drove in four runs, including a bases-loaded triple and his 1,000th career hit, and Ike Davis had a two-run double among three RBIs.

Reds 6, Astros 2

In Houston, Aaron Harang pitched six solid innings to guide Cincinnati past Houston.

The result broke a five-game road skid for the Reds and halted Houston's winning streak at three.

It's the first win of the season for Harang (1-3), had allowed 14 runs over his previous two starts, but this time conceded only two, delivering six strikeouts and one walk in six innings.

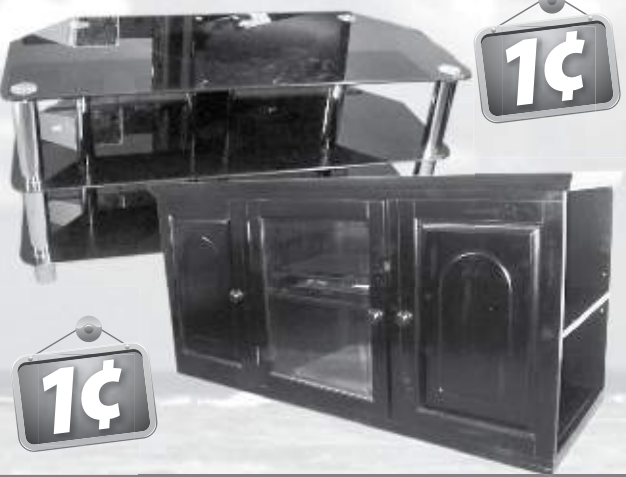
Pirates 7, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Pittsburgh got five runs in the ninth to snap a skid of 22 straight losses at Milwaukee.

In the ninth, Ronny Cedeno crushed the second pitch from Trevor Hoffman (1-2) for a solo homer that tied the game. After a strikeout, Andy Laroche singled for the fourth time and Lastings Milledge doubled. An intentional walk set up Ryan Doumit's second career grand slam.

Home runs have been Hoffman's downfall in all three blown saves. He's now given up five with a win on the line. His ERA skied from 9.00 to 13.50.

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8th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
NMC Board of Regents chair Janet King poses with Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz and Das Krishnan before golfers head to the west course of the Laolay Bay Golf Resort.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Volunteers measure one golfer's shot for the closest to the pin contest.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jack Sablan stretches before teeing off at No. 13 during the 8th Annual NMC Foundation Open Golf Tournament at the Laolay Bay Golf Resort on Saturday.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
2009 winner Seung Woo Kang stands near the hole-in-one prize on No. 13—a brand new car from Triple J Motors.



NMC
A group of golfers pose for a photo after completing the tournament.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jeff Taylor eyes the ball before making a shot on hole No. 18.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jess Wabol watches his shot from the No. 13 tee.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Championship flight winner Jong Won Lee takes his time before teeing off at No. 13.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Championship runner-up Jong Hoon Park chips from the greens of hole No. 18.



NMC
A group of female golfers pose for a photo.



Butler, Haywood
keep Mavs from
being eliminated

24

28 THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2010

Saipan Tribune Sports



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Matt elated with historic stint in FISU Forum

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reigning NMASA/Tan Siu Lin Foundation Student Athlete of the Year Matthew Mancao will go on a historic trip in June when he represents the CNMI in the FISU Forum in Vigo, Spain.

Mancao will be the first CNMI athlete to participate in a FISU-sanctioned activity since the Commonwealth became a member of the Federation Internationale du Sport Universitaire more than a year ago. FISU, which is based in Brussels, Belgium, is the world governing body of over 100 national university sports federations and organizes the Winter and Summer Universiades in uneven years and the World University Championships in even years.

"I am overwhelmed. I am excited to be there and I want to express my deep gratitude to those who nominated and selected me. I'm greatly honored to be able to represent the CNMI and I will try my best to learn as

much as I can from this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I hope to bring back whatever I will learn from the forum to the local community to help promote the importance of sports and healthy living," Mancao said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White announced Mancao's selection early this week. NMASA nominated the Marianas High School graduate and the Oceania University Sports Association gave its nod on Mancao and Guam's Maria Dunn.

"Matthew is an outstanding young student-athlete, and a fine young man. We take great pride in the fact that he was selected to represent university athletes from

Oceania at the FISU Forum. We also want to thank FISU and OUSA for giving the NMI the opportunity to participate, and for the many benefits that our membership in

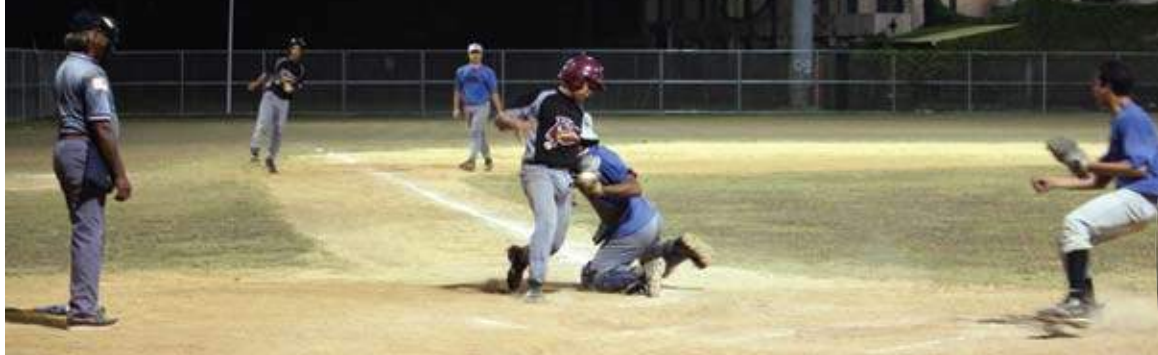
See MATT on Page 26

Matthew Mancao, seen here getting ready for the swim leg of last month's Tagaman Triathlon on Saipan, will head to Spain in June to represent the CNMI to the FISU Forum.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



D-9ers beat flightless Falcons, 1-0



D-9ers catcher Wally Emul blocks the plate and tags out Falcons second baseman John Pangelinan late in the sixth inning of Tuesday night's 2010 Big League Division game.

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The D-9ers shut out the Falcons, 1-0, in Tuesday night's 2010 Big League Division game at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield where runs were hard to come by

D-9ers winning pitcher Dave Jones threw a complete seven innings with six strikeouts, three hits, and two walks. A couple of runners reached on errors, but the D-9ers' defense held it together to support Jones' shut out game.

Falcons losing pitcher Josh Jones displayed a tremendous performance in his own right. Josh Jones also went the distance to throw a 12-strikeout one-

hitter with a walk.

The Falcons played aggressively, but three of their base runners were picked off out in the field which turned out to be a big factor in this game.

In the second, the visiting D-9ers found a crack

See D-9ERS on Page 26

3 more African teams are no pushovers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Editor's note: The Saipan Tribune wraps up the rest of the Confederation of African Football teams that advanced to the 2010 FIFA World Cup set from June 11 to July 11 in South Africa.



Having six Confederation of African Football teams—the second most behind Union of European Football Association's 13—qualifying for the 2010 FIFA World Cup says something about African strikers. It means the three other CAF teams—Algeria, Ghana, and Nigeria—are no pushovers just like the three African teams profiled last week.

Ghana wants more recognition

Ghana appeared in the FIFA World Cup for the first time via the tournament in Germany in 2006 and the west Africans want to prove their impressive debut in center stage is no fluke.



Ghana's Michael Essien (8) in action in one of the qualifying games for the 2010 World Cup.

Ghana won over the Czech Republic and the U.S. and advanced to the next round despite losing to eventual champion Italy in 2006. Against the Czech Republic, Ghana's Asamoah Gyan scored the fastest goal in the World Cup at 68 seconds. Ghana then bowed

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Hitz boosts playoffs bid in Chamolinian softball league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Hitz strengthened its bid for a playoffs seat, following a 29-5 demolition of Fuego, during the third game in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Wednesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

The victory was 11th against seven losses for Hitz, improving the team's standings to ninth place. Only the Top 10 teams after the single-round robin regular season will advance to the double-elimination playoffs. Teams which will not make the cut will have their own single-elimination playoffs to determine the winner of the lower half bracket.

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